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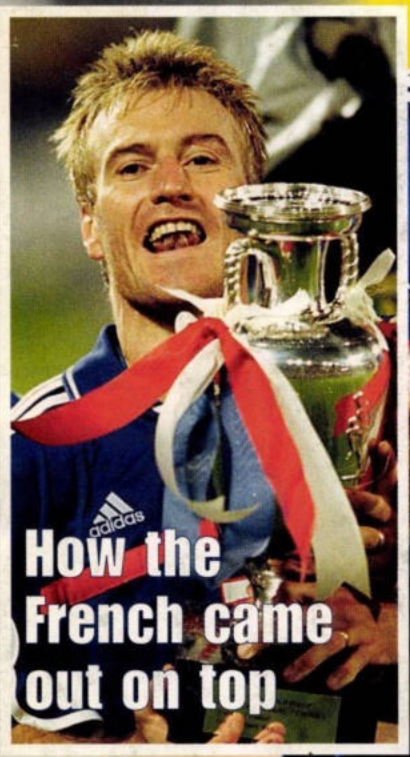

How the French came out on top

IN DEPTH AND IN DETAIL

TEAM BY TEAM: THE COMPLETE REVIEW

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July 2000

HOW do you do justice to a tournament as excellent as Euro 2000? It was an eventful three weeks in Belgium and Holland, to say the least. We saw some wonderful football, positive attitudes from players, coaches and referees, and some fantastic matches as a result. We've tried to convey that feeling over the next 40 pages or so, starting with our Final report and working our way through our review of a memorable tournament. Portugal in 2004 already has a lot to live up to.

Next month, we'll have more analysis and comment on Euro 2000, plus reaction from Zurich on FIFA's decision on the hosting of the 2006 World Cup. See you then.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipc.co.uk)

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Ital

02/07/00

FRANCE 2 ITALY 1 (AET)

THE shower of golden petals that cascaded down from the roof of the Feyenoord stadium after France beat Italy 2-1 in the Euro 2000 Final were entirely appropriate.

It was, after all, a crown attained by a golden goal after a golden tournament. The previous three weeks had provided a cascade of superb matches, stunning goals and enormous skill. It was without doubt the finest modern European Championship, fit to go down in its own history just as 1970 has entered World Cup legend.

Not that France, superb as they are, command their era as Brazil did 30 years ago. The delight of Euro 2000 was a triumph of teamwork, as shown by the vast majority of the finalists. No previous European Championship has demonstrated such a high technical level and not only from the acknowledged masters of the ball from Mediterranean Europe, but also from assorted Slovenians, Yugoslavs, Dutch and most of the rest.

Not England, Germany or Norway. All performed below even their own restricted potential. Indeed, to mention their sorry efforts at Euro 2000 in a review of the Final is to lift them out of their depth.

France deserved to win because they were the finest team at the finals. From the moment they started showboating in their first game, against Denmark, they looked a class act. The French were good as World Cup-winners in 1998, when they were borne on the wings of domestic emotion. In Holland and Belgium they revealed themselves as something else. The self-confidence in being world champions handed them extra composure in defence, extra energy in midfield and, above all, extra pace in attack. Thierry Henry, man of the match in the Final, ran the legs off Italy's superb defenders.

Roger Lemerre's France were not merely better than the Aime Jacquet Class of '98 but better than the legendary side who carried off the European in front of their own fans in 1984. Zidane is ichel Platini but then the balance between nd individual has changed in the past 16 he superstar is now the servant of the not vice-versa.

that end Zidane sacrificed his individualism in al, first playing up front with Henry to confuse lian marking, then dropping back to work like n when the match had to be turned around. enry may have been man of the match for the technical study group but Zidane was man of ournament and a long way down the road,

one by French finesse

Keir Radnedge sees Les Bleus triumph in Rotterdam

one supposes, to regaining that European Footballer of the Year crown.

France thus became the first World Cup holders to go on and claim the European crown – West Germany having achieved that same double the other way round in the early 1970s.

Victory for France was, of course, desperately cruel to an Italian team who threw themselves with equal attacking gusto into a hectic start when both sides appeared desperate for an early resolution. Italy, certainly, did not want to go down the extra time route again so soon after the wonderful but wearying defeat of Holland in the semi-finals.

The opening exchanges were sprinkled with half-chances that kept the crowd on their toes, though it was not until the 20th minute that the first 'proper' opening appeared. France captain Didier Deschamps worked himself a clear sight of goal from midfield but he knew he had to shoot quickly and his snatched effort flew over the bar.

Henry's attacking pace was already proving a potent weapon for France. He embarrassed Luigi Di Biagio on the half-hour with a thrilling crossfield dash. The Italian midfielder fouled Henry at the cost of a yellow card and a free-kick just short of the penalty box. Fortunately for Italy, Di Biagio's defenders managed to scramble away Youri Djorkaeff's set-piece for a corner.

Henry got up to more mischief in the 39th minute. This time he outpaced his marker, Alessandro Nesta, as he cut in from the left and slid a finely judged pass into the penalty box. Djorkaeff stabbed out a foot but Francesco Toldo dived right to save. It was the first serious stop in what proved to be a very busy night for the Italian goalkeeper.

Italy immediately shot away on a break, which was spoiled only when Marco Delvecchio lost control of the ball and Francesco Totti – Italy's brightest spark – pulled an ambitious shot wide. Zoff had gambled in omitting Filippo Inzaghi but the Roma partnership was looking promising.

France attacked again through Henry. Again his pace overstretched Italy and this time Fabio Cannavaro was booked for the trip. Zidane, however, fired his free-kick much too high. At the other end Italian skipper Paolo Maldini found Delvecchio clear on the left and Marcel Desailly and Laurent Blanc did a remarkably cool job of clearing the cross between them.

The second half began much as the first had ended with Henry stretching the Italian defence and Zidane being caught wrong-footed as the cross skidded beyond everybody's touch.

France were trying to vary their tactics now with Djorkaeff drifting forward and Zidane slipping back into the engine-room, but it was Italy who changed the shape of the game after substituting Alessandro Del Piero for Stefano Fiore in the 53rd minute.

Italy looked more dangerous immediately as Del Piero's left-wing crosses put the French defence under pressure. The cross that did the real damage, however, came from the right. Totti slipped the ball forward to Gianluca Pessotto and his superb centre was volleyed home from close range by Delvecchio.

At that phase of the game it looked increasingly like Italy's night. Del Piero and Delvecchio had more chances to increase Italy's lead, each time when sent wide of struggling Blanc by the through passes of Totti. The first time, after 59 minutes, Del Piero slid his shot wide of Barthez's left-hand, then, in the 70th, Delvecchio fired wide of the other post. In between, at the other end, the ever-alert Toldo twice saved from the fast-breaking Henry.

As the minutes ticked by it appeared France, having lost their shape, had also lost hope. Lemerre threw on attacking substitutes Sylvain Wiltord, David Trezeguet and Robert Pires and the result appeared to be tactical chaos. But finally, in overtime, Wiltord found space, cut in from the left as Italy fluffed a clearance and, at last, Toldo was beaten.

This time it was Italy, shoot-out winners over Holland in the semi-final, who found themselves on the wrong end of the psychological seesaw. All the fatigue from the semi-final, which had been banished by the Final adrenalin, suddenly rushed back like lead into their legs and boots.

France, in stark and almost visible contrast, gathered their thoughts in the moments before extra time, reorganised tactically and prepared to finish the job in clinical fashion.

Del Piero had a chance, in the 94th minute, when he slid his shot into Barthez's body, and one ambitious shot when he scooped the ball over the bar four minutes later. Otherwise, it was all France.

Toldo hurt his nose and needed treatment as he bravely grabbed Pires's drive under pressure from Trezeguet and Zidane. Then Zidane was too high with a free-kick after Wiltord was tripped by Massimo Ambrosini. But Italy were shipping water.

France tore open a gash down the left wing and sent Pires stabbing in, time and again. One Pires cross saw Zidane's bicycle kick deflected for a corner by Maldini. Then, in the 103rd minute, it was Pires again, slicing into that same gap. This time Trezeguet was on target to devastating effect.

Zoff could afford to be generous in defeat since no one had originally expected Italy to go as far as the Final. "I feel very bad," he said. "This is an important event in my life and it's a defeat. But the French were stronger tonight. We also had quite a lot of opportunities to score but I cannot blame anyone. We lost in extra time but you can't say we didn't put up a fight."

Zoff also had a typically Italian reply to the suggestion that his side might consider themselves as 'moral champions of Europe'. The coach said: "What matters is reality. Some matches can go the full 120 minutes and be affected by a small matter of luck. It's the nature of the game. It was great to show that our national team can take on anyone in the world, but this time luck was not with us."

Lemerre was magnanimous to admit that fortune had played its part. But then, he believed France had earned it. "This is a victory for attacking football," he said. "I am not going to pretend otherwise. We have young attacking players who are quality players and they won the title for us. But Italy, offering another kind of attacking football, also went very close. In the end, it took a sort of football miracle for us to come through."

Ironically, of course, the Miracle Man – Trezeguet – will be playing his club football next season with Juventus…in Italy.

Match Facts

JULY 2 – ROTTERDAM

France 2 (Wiltord 90, Trezeguet 103 - golden goal)
Italy 1 (Delvecchio 55)
Aet. HT: 0-0. **90mins:** 1-1. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
France (4-2-3-1): Barthez - Thuram, Blanc, Desailly, Lizarazu (Pires 86) - Vieira, Deschamps - Djorkaeff (Trezeguet 76), Zidane, Dugarry (Wiltord 58) - Henry.
Booked: Thuram.
Italy (3-5-2): Toldo - Cannavaro, Nesta, Iuliano - Pessotto, Albertini, Fiore (Del Piero 53), Di Biagio (Ambrosini 66), Maldini - Totti, Delvecchio (Montella 86).
Booked: Di Biagio, Cannavaro, Totti.

The action as it happened

On its way...Delvecchio is in the right place to put Italy 1-0 up

0 Italy kick off.
3 Blanc, under pressure from Delvecchio, heads behind for a corner.
4 Totti heads hopelessly wide from Italy's second corner.
6 Henry hits a post for France with a curling shot from the right which Toldo had left, thinking it was going wide.
8 Delvecchio shoots over after failing to connect properly with Fiore's cross from the right.
17 Albertini clips the top of the French bar with a curling free-kick from 25 yards after Deschamps had fouled Totti.
20 Deschamps shoots over from 25 yards.
23 France win their first corner. Desailly beats Toldo to Djorkaeff's cross, but heads wide.
31 Di Biagio is booked for a foul on Henry. Djorkaeff's free-kick is scrambled away for a throw-in.
39 France's first attempt on target. Henry's through ball is prodded towards goal by Djorkaeff, but Toldo, diving to his right, saves.
42 Cannavaro is booked for a trip on Henry. Zidane puts the free-kick over.
44 Maldini finds Delvecchio unmarked in the inside-left channel, but his cross is blocked by Desailly.
45 Vieira shoots wide from 25 yards.

SECOND HALF

50 A brilliant run into the Italian penalty area by Henry ends with the ball being whipped across the box, but Zidane just fails to connect with it.
53 Substitution for Italy. Del Piero replaces Fiore.
54 Blanc just beats Delvecchio to a Maldini cross, heading away for a corner.
55 GOAL. France 0 Italy 1. Italy win another corner. The ball is played short and Totti finds himself closed down by a French defender. But a clever back-heel plays in Pessotto in space on the right-hand side of the area. His cross is sidefooted in by DELVECCHIO from close range.
58 Substitution for France. Wiltord replaces Dugarry. Thuram is booked for dissent.
59 Del Piero shoots across goal after a swift, incisive counter-attack instigated by Totti.
61 Toldo comfortably collects Desailly's header from Zidane's free-kick.
62 Toldo saves brilliantly with his legs from Wiltord, played in on the left by Zidane.
66 Substitution for Italy. Ambrosini for Di Biagio.
69 Toldo denies Henry with another brilliant save from close range.
70 Delvecchio hits the side netting with a half-volley.
72 Iuliano beats Djorkaeff to the ball and then blocks Zidane's dangerous cross from the left.
76 Substitution for France. Trezeguet replaces Djorkaeff.
77 Henry stays on his feet under the challenge of Cannavaro but shoots straight at Toldo.
78 Wiltord is denied by Toldo from a similar position on the left.
82 Blanc's header from distance is easily saved by Toldo after yet another French corner had been cleared by Italy.
84 Toldo drops Zidane's corner under Desailly's challenge, but then recovers to catch the ball cleanly.
85 Barthez saves with his feet from Del Piero, who had been played in by Ambrosini.
86 Substitution for France. Pires replaces Lizarazu.
Substitution for Italy. Montella replaces Delvecchio.
90 Another brilliant save from Toldo, turning Trezeguet's shot around a post, but the French striker is judged to have fouled his marker.
90 Totti booked for time-wasting.
90 GOAL. France 1 Italy 1. With seconds remaining, Trezeguet's header plays in WILTORD in space on the left. He has time to control the bouncing ball before firing home under the left arm of Toldo.

EXTRA TIME

92 Henry, on the edge of the area, scuffs his shot, which is easily held by Toldo.
94 Barthez clears acrobatically from outside his area from the onrushing Del Piero.
95 Toldo pushes away Pires's shot from outside

Worthy winner...Trezeguet's spectacular stri

Late equaliser...Wiltord fires France level

the area, but clashes with Trezeguet's outstretched boot as he collects the loose ball and needs lengthy treatment.

98 Del Piero turns and finds space on the edge of the area, but shoots high and wide.

101 Wiltord is brought down by Ambrosini 25 yards out. Zidane sends the free-kick over the bar.

102 Zidane's acrobatic volley from a Pires cross is deflected by Maldini away for a corner

103 GOLDEN GOAL. TREZEGUET fires home a thunderbolt shot from 10 yards out after Pires had beaten Cannavaro on the left, run to the byline and laid the ball back across the area.

rings France the European Championship

UEFA EURO 2000 Belgium - The Netherlands

WHAT THEY SAID...

ROGER LEMERRE (above)

"I said even if we just had one second to go we must still play with full power. After a while hope became desperation and I hoped for a miracle. A miracle did indeed happen. We managed to bring it about."

"You have to take these happy moments when you can. You can't compare it with 1998. That was magical because it was in France. It has just happened. Let me enjoy it before I have to analyse it."

THIERRY HENRY

"We have a lot of qualities but without the mental strength it would be difficult. We are going to see the fans in Paris [on Monday] and then we need a rest."

"Some may say we are better now [than at France 98] because we won away from home, but there are no easy games to play in football. People said in France we had an easy group and we played at home."

CHRISTOPHE DUGARRY

"Winning the European Championship two years after the World Cup is absolutely exceptional. We need time to realise what we've achieved."

"It was a bit different in '98 because it was the World Cup and it was in France, but I think this is even more difficult to win."

"After such an achievement you wonder whether you should not stop because there's not much more you can do. But that's not true, there's still plenty more to come."

FABIEN BARTHEZ

"This team is fantastic. We never gave up. We always kept our hope. I am really proud to be part of this team. After the match I told David Trezeguet: 'You are always there when we need you.' When I saw the ball at his feet I knew we would score."

MARCO DELVECCHIO

"It was too good to be true. We've lost a match in this way...30 seconds from the end we were ready to celebrate, we had the cup in our hands. It still hasn't sunk in. Maybe it will over the next couple of days."

ALESSANDRO DEL PIERO (right)

"I'm destroyed. Destroyed because incredibly we've lost and destroyed because I had chances to score and I didn't manage to take them. Both misses were as bad as each other. I wouldn't have minded hitting the second one badly if I had taken the first well, but these are all phrases that don't mean much at the moment. Our bitterness is too great."

FRANCESCO TOTTI

"Everyone said we played badly [in the semi-final] and we were lucky to win. Today we played well and we've lost. Maybe it's better to play badly."

Keir Radnedge

COMMENTARY

'If there had been a major incident, the Final stadium and its staff would not have coped'

Fit for a Final?...Rotterdam's De Kuip stadium

Rotterdam could have been Heysel over again

YOU CAN see the Feyenoord stadium from miles away. That was fortunate for foreign fans at Euro 2000 because nobody in Rotterdam had thought to put up any helpful road signs.

The overall impression after three weeks zipping around Belgium and Holland was that co-hosting is not the simple, fast-track solution that officials hoped would bring big events to small countries.

It all comes down to political will, over which football has no control – and political will in Holland and Belgium was lacking. The local councils appeared more embarrassed than proud at having European Championship venues. It was as if they were ashamed to own up.

Even the Belgian/Dutch organising committee tried to hide. The signposting around stadia for fans was virtually non-existent and the directions (for officials, media, VIPs, volunteers, etc) were in probably the smallest type the printer could find.

Back to Rotterdam, as a typical example of an issue in which inefficiency flirted with potential disaster. The stewards appeared to have little or no knowledge of stadium geography and, when asked directions, tried to be helpful but invariably sent people in the wrong direction: mildly irritating on a good day but not when security and lives are at stake.

Fifteen minutes before all the matches I attended at De Kuip, long queues were still waiting at the inadequate and inadequately-staffed turnstiles. They were still coming in long after kick-off. At the end there was only a minimum number of exits open into which crowds funnelled.

IF THERE HAD BEEN A MAJOR INCIDENT, THEN THE STADIUM AND ITS STAFF WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COPE.

Yet this was not a provincial, first-round venue. This was the stadium chosen long ago to host the Final of the European Championship.

The impression was that UEFA, the local organising committee and the local authorities had each decided to spend the bare minimum on staging the tournament.

Media facilities were, shall I say, spartan. Not that fans care, but it is significant. If the organisers skimp on media facilities, how much more will they skimp on fans, the poor bloody infantry of this game of ours?

It's not as if UEFA is short of money, and the national and local governments of Holland and Belgium were hardly cash-strapped over Euro 2000 as they raked in all those guilders, francs and euros from the thousands of football-tourists flocking in.

Still, who will soon give a French footballer's ponytail for how Euro 2000 was organised? Nobody. That's why I fear things won't get better.

Yes, the referees are getting better

ONE of the delights of Euro 2000 was that referees took so long to grab their usual share of controversy.

We were almost into the third week before the first signs emerged of players' and coaches' vindictive paranoia.

Humberto Coelho, Vujadin Boskov, Jozef Chovanec, Mustafa Denizli and Emerich Jenei all enrolled in the club that believed financial and commercial pressures and the interests of western European football had taken precedence over fair play.

Coelho's Portugal had the fun and games over the golden goal penalty award in their semi-final against France. Previously, Boskov's Yugoslavia had had a man sent off in all three first-round games. Chovanec's Czech Republic incurred a penalty against France which referee Graham Poll later admitted was an error of judgment. Denizli's Turkey conceded a penalty against Italy, then had Alpay sent off contentiously – and quickly – by Dick Jol in the first half of their quarter-final.

Crying foul...Hagi falls under Zambrotta's challenge

Romania, having been weakened not merely by injuries but by double-yellow suspensions, had Gheorghe Hagi sent off by Vitor Melo Pereira for diving against Italy.

Hagi was not happy. "That was a scandalous decision," he said. "You could see from an aeroplane that it was a penalty. Robbing us like that just isn't fair. It is not just one non-awarded penalty. We should have had five in this competition."

Jenei widened the debate, saying: "The refereeing is not of the required standard. I am speaking about the whole tournament, not our game against Italy especially."

Of course, Portuguese, Yugoslavs, Turks and Romanians all had specific gripes after defeats and that always suggests a subjective flaw in the complaints.

My opinion is that referees kept up with play, i.e. had been fitter, than at any previous tournament, and their co-ordination with their assistants had been vastly improved.

Some offside decisions were shown to be wrong on video but no linesmen (as we used to call them) can get them all right. It is physically impossible to focus your eyes on moving objects in two separate fields of vision simultaneously.

I question only three aspects of the refereeing. The first, and most serious, was the slide towards the bad old days of the tackle from behind. Too many players, particularly in midfield, escaped due disciplinary punishment.

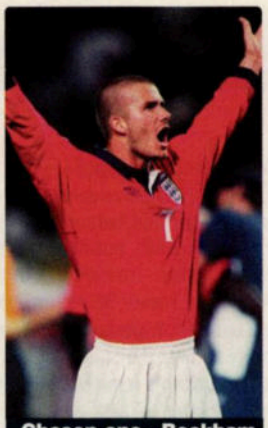
The World Cup guide in 1994 and specifically in 1998 was precise – a tackle from any direction that risked injury to the opponent should be punished with a yellow card. Refs were told the same in Belgium and Holland but few obeyed orders.

My second complaint is the way refs allow players to wave imaginary cards at them. That is not merely dissent: it is also ungentlemanly conduct, the antithesis of fair play. Not merely is it a visual assault on the referee's independence and integrity, but it is also a sly attack on a fellow professional.

Dick Jol did well to wave away Turkish protests that Portugal's Fernando Couto should have been sent off over the penalty incident. He would have earned the thanks of fellow officials if he had booked several of the 'card' wavers.

Finally, the way refs handled players' persistent diving. Urs Meier did well to book England's Alan Shearer for diving in the match against Romania, but Melo Pereira was caught in an awful dilemma by the Hagi incident.

In my opinion, there was a foul by Zambrotta, but there was no doubt that Hagi made as much theatre as he could. In those circumstances a referee who gives the foul will feel he is allowing himself to be conned by the dive. Hagi was the victim but his reaction compromised the original offence. Sometimes, refs just can't win.


Chosen one...Beckham

One out of 50 is a figure of failure

ENGLAND's failure to make anything other than a negative impression was underlined by the inclusion of only David Beckham in the initial squad of 50 from which the eventual All-Star team was selected.

That unflattering verdict was delivered by a technical study group organised by UEFA coaching boss Andy Roxburgh, and featuring Roy Hodgson (England), Gerard Houllier (France), Berti Vogts (Germany), Rinus Michels (Holland), Anghel Iordanescu (Romania) and Jo Venglos (Slovakia).

Only Denmark failed to provide even one nominee in the first-round squad. Holland had nine players, France and Italy eight each.

At least England were not alone in their meagre representation. Co-hosts Belgium, Germany, Norway, Slovenia and Sweden also managed only one player apiece.

Initial squad:
Goalkeepers: Barthez (Fra), Van der Sar (Hol), Toldo (Ita).
Defenders: Djukic (Yug), Blanc, Desailly, Thuram (Fra), F De Boer, Reiziger, Stam (Hol), Cannavaro, Nesta, Maldini (Ita), Jorge Costa, Fernando Couto (Por), Chivu (Rom).
Midfielders: Zidane, Petit (Fra), Cocu, Davids (Hol), Stojkovic (Yug), Okan (Tur), Nedved (Cze), Rui Costa, Paulo Bento, Sergio Conceicao, Figo (Por), Guardiola, Mendieta (Spa), Munteanu (Rom), Beckham (Eng), Albertini, Totti (Ita), Ljungberg (Swe), Mykland (Nor), Wilmots (Blg), Hamann (Ger).
Forwards: Raul (Spa), Kluivert, Bergkamp, Overmars (Hol), Milosevic (Yug), Zahovic (Slv), Henry, Anelka (Fra), Hakan Sukur (Tur), Nuno Gomes (Por), Inzaghi, Del Piero (Ita), Smicer (Cze).

Defeat with dignity: it makes a change

ENGLAND's second retreat from Charleroi was accomplished in a peaceful and dignified fashion, which was the only happy plus culled from an unequivocal defeat by Romania. Frankly, 3-0 might have been a more honest reflection of the difference between the teams than the 3-2 now already enshrined in the history books.

The lack of fan trouble merely emphasised how the draw had punished everyone when it gave six months' advance warning of an England v Germany match on a weekend – thus giving every thug and yob all the notice they needed.

Hopefully, UEFA – while keen to lecture everyone else – will learn lessons about its own inadequate arrangement. It's not enough to say: "We have made the draw for the fixtures and now we wash our hands of whatever that may provoke."

Plenty of snide comment had surrounded the appointment of Swiss referee Urs Meier to officiate the match, given that England's early return home so clearly suited UEFA and the Belgian police.

Italian observers, who love conspiracy theories, always expected a penalty to send Romania through. Cynical or what? At least England fans can be consoled by the thought that things could be worse. Just look at Germany.

Mighty minnows and fallen giants

SLOVENIA and the Czech Republic were the two most regretted first-fence fallers. The Slovenians came to the finals as minnows. Nobody could fathom how they had managed to beat Ukraine in the play-offs, but now we know. They displayed enormous spirit and pride – reminiscent of the thrust that drove Croatia at Euro 96 and France 98 – plus a skill and organisational level that surprised both Yugoslavia and Spain.

That 3-3 draw against the Slavs was the stuff of legends. To go 3-0 up, see your opponents reduced to 10 men, then concede three goals takes some doing.

The Czechs were unlucky right from the draw, which landed them with Holland, France and Denmark. They played superbly in the second half against Holland but lost 1-0 and never regained their equilibrium. France, beaten by the Czechs on penalties in the semi-finals four years ago, may consider that luck merely evened itself out.

Denmark, the other fallers in Group D, were a different case. The Danes are hung with the albatross of having won the title in 1992. They also have lost both Laudrup brothers since reaching the World Cup quarter-finals two years ago. Everyone judged them on recent history, not present realities. At least they played reasonably well at times and gave it their best shot – which is more than could be said for England, who brought an under-organised team of limited technique to the finals and did not even show the usual qualities of hard work and 90-minute commitment.

'If England were worse than expected, Germany were as bad as had been feared'

Whatever else may have been said about a variety of England teams down the years, they were always awkward to break down. Now England cannot even say that after throwing away a two-goal start against Portugal and a 2-1 lead against Romania.

Germany arrived at the finals with no pretensions and played to their non-existent potential. If England were worse than expected, Germany were as bad as had been feared. Giants of European football only in your dreams.

The poorest impression was left, however, by Norway. I know the Norwegians are only comparatively recent arrivals at top level (since the 1994 World Cup), but looking at players such as Tore Andre Flo and Erik Mykland, you feel that the legacy of the Egil Olsen managerial experience has been a dumbing-down of the Norwegian national team. They played below their potential and they did it boringly, the great footballing turn-off of Euro 2000.

Finally, in Group B, Sweden failed to qualify because they lost their tactical discipline. Sadly, the Swedes saved their best for their entertaining swansong against Italy – and by then it was too late.

That also was the day Belgium wasted all their previous effort. Robert Waseige had worked wonders over the past year building a competitive side out of the wreckage bequeathed by Georges Leekens. So how must he have felt after seeing keeper Filip De Wilde throw it all away? We expect goalkeepers to be crazy but not wild.

Boring and below potential...Norway were the biggest disappointment of Euro 2000

Out of control...England fans in Belgium

Political cowards will not stop yobs

THE odd thing about the yobs who follow England is that their behaviour is the very antithesis of what being British, or more specifically, English, was traditionally all about. The stiff upper lip attitude may have projected an image of condescending superiority and aloofness but it was preferable to the objectionable extremes to which today's hooligans and their companions sink.

When I read the comments on the violence from the British Home Secretary, Jack Straw, the words 'stable...door... horse ...bolted' sprang into my mind. On one hand his government has woken up far too late to the issue of passport bans on hooligans. On the other hand, the civil liberties problem has been exacerbated by the tactics of the Belgian police.

In a (comparatively) free and democratic society, everybody has the right to go about his or her life both subject to, and protected by, the rule of law. So a cafe owner in Charleroi has the right to open for business on the day of a contentious football match, and supporters have the right to attend.

Every single person properly convicted of a hooligan-related offence should be subject to passport suspension for, say, five years AT ANY TIME TO BE DECIDED BY THE HOME OFFICE i.e. during a major football event on the continent.

Democracy, however, also demands that the people so punished must first possess an established criminal record. That's one snag the Belgian authorities ignored.

In sweeping up the streets, cafes and bars they deported many England fans who were merely minding their own business and committing no offence whatsoever.

So, firstly, a proper assault on soccer hooligans requires passport suspension laws. Secondly, it demands that local police put those arrested through the full criminal and courts procedure.

Thirdly, ALL the member countries of the European Union should use that body to help sanction a fast-track legal procedure for these particular circumstances.

Fourthly, again through the EU, laws should be standardised to permit the imposition of a local all-day alcohol ban in cities and towns hosting a match involving a team from another country.

Of course, UEFA officials had to put on that media show threatening to expel England or they would have been accused of dodging their responsibilities. But those responsibilities are limited and their proposed solutions were only half-baked.

Controlling hooliganism is a matter of political will. As we have seen through the general lack of organisation surrounding Euro 2000, political will and football are not the most comfy bedfellows.

The media and the distorted message

THE stark total of nearly 1,000 arrests around the England v Germany match was a big story for the media – but then, the media helped write it. The contributory factors are more complex than many people back in what used to be Fleet Street would want to admit.

The English tabloid press has grown so used to reporting the hooligan excesses of a minority of national team supporters that it is now part of the problem. Ever since Germany and England were drawn to meet at Charleroi the sensationalist headlines have centred on the certainty of hooligan violence.

Anyone with half a head for the mindless idiocy provoked by a drinking day out in Belgium would have been encouraged to make the trip. At one stage in Brussels on Friday afternoon there were more media crews in Grand'Place awaiting, expecting – indeed, by their presence – inviting trouble than there were fans, hooligan or otherwise.

UEFA chief executive Gerd Aigner attracted a blast of tabloid wrath for suggesting that trouble in Copenhagen before the UEFA Cup Final had been exaggerated by the media. But he was right. Newspapers deliberately send out reporters and photographers on what is described as the 'hooligan watch'. They are not sports reporters and they do not have event credentials. The pressure on them is to turn in reports of trouble.

Similarly, television news programmes rerun pictures of trouble from varying angles to stoke up the image of utter mayhem.

One fascinating angle this time was the different approaches taken by the Belgian and Dutch police. The Dutch in Eindhoven for England-Portugal turned out in strength but managed to 'talk' a peaceful game. They had an easier situation. England v Portugal does not have all the overtones of a Germany game and the result depressed anger out of the hooligans.

The Belgian police took a different approach. They had warned in advance of zero-tolerance tactics, which meant arresting anyone within 100 yards of trouble, real or feared. One group of fans arriving peacefully in Charleroi were baton-charged just for getting off the train.

That may appear over the top but English football hooligans down the years – at national team and club level – have earned such a reaction.

In the right...UEFA's Gerd Aigner (left)

UEFA EURO 2000
Belgium · The Netherlands

Pick of the crop

Gavin Hamilton selects his team of the tournament

CHOOSING the best players from a tournament as enjoyable as Euro 2000 is not difficult, but finding a consensus is. So here is a personal selection, chosen for their individual qualities, not for their ability to fit into a tactical selection.

Italy's Francesco Toldo was the outstanding keeper. He started somewhat nervously against Turkey but quickly settled into his stride and his performance in the semi-final against Holland was heroic.

Fabien Barthez was a charismatic figure at the back for France, while Edwin Van der Sar was not beaten while in goal for Holland. Rustu of Turkey also deserves a mention, but the vote goes to Toldo, despite Italy's defeat in the Final.

In defence, it is hard to look beyond players from the two finalists. In the centre, Alessandro Nesta and Fabio Cannavaro were outstanding for Italy, particularly in the semi-final against Holland. Laurent Blanc and Marcel Desailly were again superb for France, but the Italian pair's courage in seeing off the Dutch shades it.

Portugal's central partnership of Jorge Costa and Fernando Couto were commended by many for providing a solid base for their attacking ambitions. Frank De Boer and Jaap Stam did well for most of the tournament, but failed when it mattered most – from the penalty spot. Miroslav Djukic impressed for Yugoslavia, keeping his head when all around him were losing theirs.

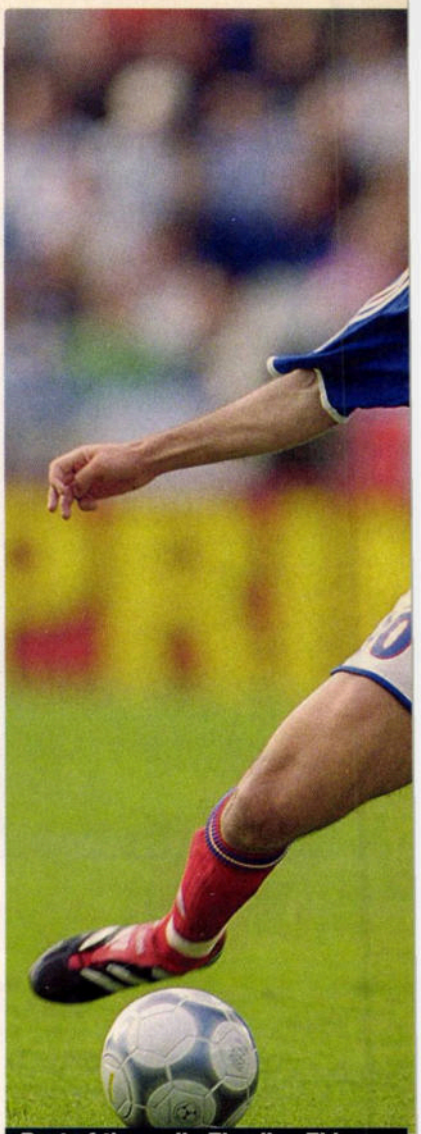
For full-backs it is hard to find a better pair than Frenchmen Lilian Thuram and Bixente Lizarazu. The young Romanian Cristian Chivu was one of the discoveries of the tournament, although he was lucky to stay on the pitch after Dan Petrescu was shown a yellow card against England for an offence that Chivu had committed.

There are no prizes for guessing the outstanding midfielder (and player) of the tournament. Zinedine Zidane rose head and shoulders above everyone else in the finals, taking the art of midfield playmaking to new heights.

I am reluctant to include Rui Costa and Luis Figo alongside Zidane because of their disgraceful behaviour at the end of Portugal's semi-final defeat by France. But before that, Figo had been magnificent, not least in dismantling England.

Edgar Davids helped Holland pick up momentum as the tournament progressed, and was outstanding against Yugoslavia as a provider for Patrick Kluivert.

That leaves one midfield berth, and Didier Deschamps shades it. Deschamps had been criticised before the tournament as a possible weak link in the French side, but no player does the simple things as effectively as him. The attacking *joie de vivre* with which France blew away Italy during extra time in the Final would not have been possible without the uncomplicated endeavour of their captain.



Best of them all...Zinedine Zidane

Deschamps gets the nod ahead of Manu Petit and Patrick Vieira, who both made huge contributions to the French success. And Youri Djorkaeff exceeded expectations.

Italy's Stefano Fiore had a disappointing Final, but did more than enough to justify his selection by Dino Zoff as playmaker ahead of Francesco Totti. Gaizka Mendieta was unlucky not to start for Spain, but soon showed that he is one of the most complete midfielders in the modern game. Marc Overmars and Bodo Zenden gained in status as Holland progressed, but could not raise their game when required in the semi-final.

What of the first-round fallers? Pavel Nedved did his reputation no harm despite the Czechs' unlucky elimination, while Erik Mykland impressed for Norway. Romania proved that there is life after Hagi, with the promising performances of Adrian Mutu and Dorinel Munteanu. Marc Wilmots was the one bright spot for a disappointing Belgium.

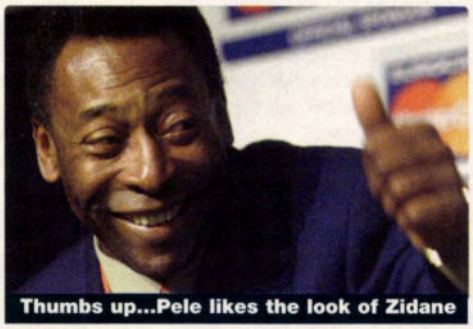
Up front, there was no contest. Patrick Kluivert and Thierry Henry were by far the most effective forwards. Kluivert came of

Pele: 'Zidane can be a true great'

ZINEDINE ZIDANE was virtually the unanimous choice as Man of the Tournament at Euro 2000. Whether he will ultimately prove to be a greater player than compatriot Michel Platini is another matter, according to Pele.

The great Brazilian was an avid spectator at the finals and he had no hesitation in nominating the French playmaker as his favourite. Pele said: "Zidane is even better now than two years ago. The extra experience of winning a World Cup has given him even more confidence to be able to dictate a game as well as star in it.

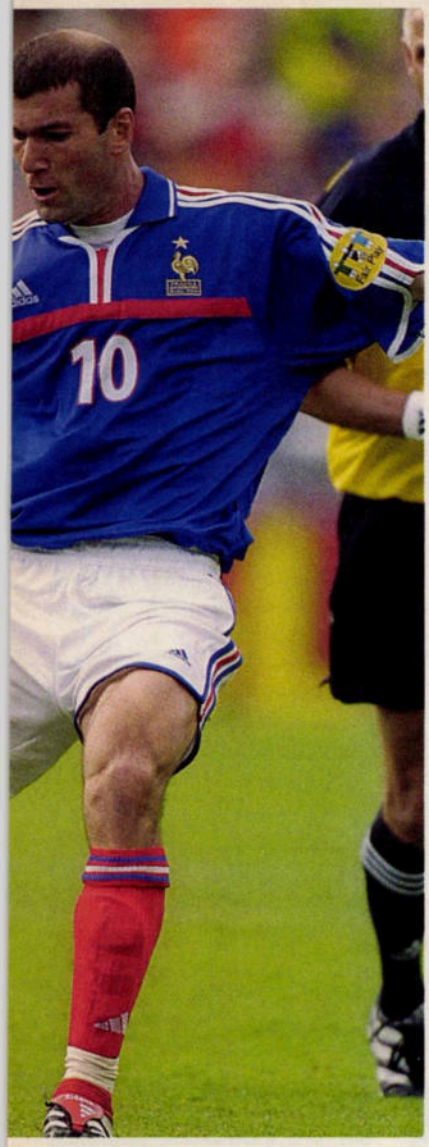
"Whether he goes on to become one of the all-time greats is another matter...It is only with the perspective of time that you can make a proper analysis. Remember Paolo Rossi? In the 1982 World Cup he scored the hat-trick which beat Brazil and finished as top scorer. But he never dominated any other tournament in the same way.



Thumbs up...Pele likes the look of Zidane

"I grew up in the 1950s when the big heroes were players like Ferenc Puskas and Alfredo Di Stefano. Later I played against people like Bobby Moore and Bobby Charlton. You can look back on them all and see they were great because of the time they dominated the game in their era. Maybe Zidane can do the same. The way he is dominating at the moment he is up alongside Rivaldo. But we will have to wait and see."

Keir Radnedge



age during Euro 2000, while Henry, though not a scorer in the Final, did much to wear the Italians down. Savo Milosevic of Yugoslavia did finish as joint top scorer with Kluivert, but two of his five goals came against one of the weakest teams, Slovenia.

Nuno Gomes would be my supersub as Portugal seem at last to have found a finisher of international standard. Hats off, also, to Hakan Sukur, the inspiration behind Turkey's progress to the quarter-finals. Francesco Totti so nearly won the Final for Italy with a wonderful back-heel to set up Marco Delvecchio, and this after his semi-final penalty against Holland, the cheekiest spot-kick of the tournament.

Raul continued to live up to his great promise, but blew his chance of taking Spain on to further glory by missing his late penalty against France, though Pedro Munitis was arguably more effective in that fateful quarter-final.

Slovenia's Zlatko Zahovic, one of the best forwards at Euro 2000, left early, but not before impressing everybody with his attacking vision and technique.

My team: Toldo - Thuram, Nesta, Cannavaro, Lizarazu - Figo, Deschamps, Zidane, Davids - Henry, Kluivert.

Paul Gardner

GLOBAL VIEW

Change the tactics - and the vocabulary

AN ORGY of highly public wailing and moaning, gnashing of teeth, tearing of hair and rending of garments has swept across northern Europe since the utter obliteration of the Anglo-German school of soccer at Euro 2000.

What's to be done about it? I'm not sure about the Germans, but the English, I fear, will once again get hold of the wrong end of the stick.

I've been keeping tabs on the suggested solutions so far: the quick fixes – fire the coach, change the tactics, ban the foreigners – and the long-term answer, better youth training. Only the last one makes any sense, as an attempt to reshape fundamentals. The trouble is, it isn't fundamental enough.

To get to the bottom of English soccer's problem, you have to probe the thinking that supports its current inadequacy. A good starting point: words.

The staleness of the English game on the field is more than matched by the banality of its vocabulary. Or can it be the other way round: that a torpid vocabulary breeds an unimaginative, old-fashioned game?

Old-fashioned? The position of centre-half disappeared from football some 70 years ago, yet the English still use the term. Just as they remain obsessed with a tactical device that peaked 50 years ago: the cross.

The excellent David Beckham (excellent yes, but the world's second-best player? Come on!) is hailed as the best 'crosser' of the ball, a term that means nothing to the rest of the world.

Putting so much emphasis on the cross has allowed the English to trash foreign goalkeepers for decades. "Dodgy on crosses," they say. "We'll test him." A pseudo-rationale for what they were going to do anyway, the only thing they know how to do: pump in them crosses!

Right before the debacle against Portugal, the telecast featured a whole bevy of English coaches, and wouldn't you know it, we were told that Portuguese keeper Vitor Baia was shaky on crosses! Was he? Did it matter?

The terminology used by these sophisticated coaches also exposed, repeatedly, their deep-seated devotion to the traditional 'thud and blunder' approach.

The thud, for a start. There you have the archetypal sound-effect of English football, the satisfying solid thump of a David Seaman goal-kick disappearing into the heavens, or of a Tony Adams defensive header powering its way to nowhere.

That witless approach has been dignified with a nice, clean-sounding term: the clearance. Think about it. A clearance is always a long, get-it-out-of-there hoof. And usually a panicky one. If the ball is passed out of defence, it's a pass, not a clearance.

But the clearance, the resounding whack, is the norm. Anything less vigorous is belittled. Literally. My estimate is that I've heard the word 'little' used about a million times by these Brit expert coaches during the Euro 2000 telecasts.

Everything that didn't carry the thunder of a thud was 'little': a little back-heel, a little header, a little give-and-go, a little chip, a little return pass, a little ball. As distinct, no doubt, from a real butch back-heel and a full-blooded macho give-and-go.

All the subtle, skilful, artistic elements of the game are patronised as 'little'. The real full-size game belongs to the 50-yard whack.

The Portuguese, even the Romanians, are praised as having a love affair with the ball. An admirable quality, it seems. Fair enough – but how do the English expect to mimic that when the approved reaction to the arrival of a soccer ball is to clear it, to belt it as far away as possible?

Even when the English do engage in a passing movement or two, they don't actually pass the ball. They knock it. The Portuguese and the Brazilians don't do that – they caress the ball, or they stroke it. But the English prefer to knock it around. Occasionally, they will knock it into the box. With jargon like that, you expect an elegant game?

When Paul Gascoigne lit up Wembley with that great goal against Scotland in Euro 96, one of England's more astute journalists wrote that Gascoigne was the only player in the world who could have scored it – when there are tens of thousands of kids all over Latin America who try that trick every day.

In Spanish they call it a *sombrero*, in Portuguese a *chapeu*. They have a word for it. The English don't. Why would they have a name for a 'little' trick that is hardly ever seen in the English game?

If the English game is seen now as unimaginative and out-of-date, the same criticism certainly can be levelled at the sport's English vocabulary. Both stand in urgent need of a rethink.

Euro 2000 - THE SQUADS

BELGIUM

No		Pos	Caps	Gls
1	Filip DE WILDE	G	33	0
2	Eric DEFLANDRE	D	24	0
3	Joos VALGAEREN	D	6	0
4	Lorenzo STAELENS	D	71	8
5	Philippe CLEMENT	M	11	0
6	Yves VANDERHAEGHE	M	15	0
7	Marc WILMOTS	M	49	17
8	Bart GOOR	M	19	3
9	Emile MPENZA	F	27	8
10	Branko STRUPAR	F	11	6
11	Gert VERHEYEN	M	31	5
12	Geert DE VLIEGER	G	7	0
13	Frederic HERPOEL	G	1	0
14	Johan WALEM	M	20	1
15	Jacky PEETERS	D	6	0
16	Luc NILIS	F	56	10
17	Philippe LEONARD	D	18	0
18	Nico VAN KERCKHOVEN	M	26	2
19	Eric VAN MEIR	D	17	1
20	Gilles DE BILDE	F	24	1
21	Mbo MPENZA	F	19	0
22	Marc HENDRIKX	D	10	0

Coach: Robert WASEIGE

CZECH REP

No		Pos	Caps	Gls
1	Pavel SRNICEK	G	34	0
2	Tomas REPKA	D	39	1
3	Radoslav LATAL	M	55	3
4	Pavel NEDVED	M	46	9
5	Milan FUKAL	D	6	1
6	Petr VLCEK	D	15	0
7	Jiri NEMEC	M	82	1
8	Karel POBORSKY	M	58	3
9	Pavel KUKA	F	81	26
10	Jan KOLLER	F	17	13
11	Tomas ROSICKY	M	6	0
12	Vratislav LOKVENC	F	31	3
13	Radek BEJBL	M	50	3
14	Pavel HORVATH	M	10	0
15	Marek JANKULOVSKI	M	3	0
16	Ladislav MAIER	G	6	0
17	Vladimir SMICER	F	44	18
18	Jiri NOVOTNY	D	24	2
19	Karel RADA	D	37	4
20	Patrik BERGER	M	40	18
21	Petr GABRIEL	D	10	1
22	Jaromir BLAZEK	G	1	0

Coach: Jozef CHOVANEC

DENMARK

No		Pos	Caps	Gls
1	Peter SCHMEICHEL	G	124	1
2	Michael SCHJONBERG	D	44	3
3	Rene HENRIKSEN	D	20	0
4	Jes HOGH	D	57	1
5	Jan HEINTZE	D	65	2
6	Thomas HELVEG	D	52	2
7	Allan NIELSEN	M	35	7
8	Jesper GRONKJAER	M	12	0
9	Jon Dahl TOMASSON	F	21	8
10	Martin JORGENSEN	F	24	3
11	Ebbe SAND	F	26	5
12	Soren COLDING	D	29	0
13	Martin LAURSEN	M	3	0
14	Brian STEEN NIELSEN	M	55	2
15	Stig TOFTING	M	22	2
16	Thomas SORENSEN	G	1	0
17	Bjarne GOLDBAEK	M	24	0
18	Miklos MOLNAR	F	18	2
19	Morten BISGAARD	M	5	0
20	Thomas GRAVESEN	M	8	0
21	Mikkel BECK	F	19	3
22	Peter KJAER	G	2	0

Coach: Bo JOHANSSON

ENGLAND

No		Pos	Caps	Gls
1	David SEAMAN	G	59	0
2	Gary NEVILLE	D	41	0
3	Philip NEVILLE	D	29	0
4	Sol CAMPBELL	D	36	0
5	Tony ADAMS	D	64	5
6	Martin KEOWN	D	33	2
7	David BECKHAM	M	34	1
8	Paul SCHOLES	M	27	10
9	Alan SHEARER	F	63	30
10	Michael OWEN	F	22	6
11	Steve McMANAMAN	M	29	3
12	Gareth SOUTHGATE	D	36	1
13	Nigel MARTYN	G	13	0
14	Paul INCE	M	53	2
15	Gareth BARRY	D	2	0
16	Steven GERRARD	M	2	0
17	Dennis WISE	M	19	1
18	Nick BARMBY	M	15	3
19	Emile HESKEY	F	9	1
20	Kevin PHILLIPS	F	5	0
21	Robbie FOWLER	F	14	3
22	Richard WRIGHT	G	1	0

Coach: Kevin KEEGAN

FRANCE

No		Pos	Caps	Gls
1	Bernard LAMA	G	43	0
2	Vincent CANDELA	D	23	1
3	Bixente LIZARAZU	D	58	2
4	Patrick VIEIRA	M	30	0
5	Laurent BLANC	D	95	16
6	Youri DJORKAEFF	M	67	26
7	Didier DESCHAMPS	M	101	4
8	Marcel DESAILLY	D	72	2
9	Nicolas ANELKA	F	16	4
10	Zinedine ZIDANE	M	59	16
11	Robert PIRES	M	38	5
12	Thierry HENRY	F	21	8
13	Sylvain WILTORD	F	18	6
14	Johan MICOUD	M	7	0
15	Lilian THURAM	D	61	2
16	Fabien BARTHEZ	G	38	0
17	Emmanuel PETIT	M	41	3
18	Frank LEBOEUF	D	30	3
19	Christian KAREMBEU	D	44	1
20	David TREZEGUET	F	21	8
21	Christophe DUGARRY	F	43	7
22	Ulrich RAME	G	2	0

Coach: Roger LEMERRE

GERMANY

No		Pos	Caps	Gls
1	Oliver KAHN	G	27	0
2	Markus BABBEL	D	51	1
3	Marko REHMER	D	13	1
4	Thomas LINKE	D	17	0
5	Marco BODE	F	22	5
6	Jens NOWOTNY	D	22	0
7	Mehmet SCHOLL	M	29	5
8	Thomas HASSLER	M	101	11
9	Ulf KIRSTEN	F	51	21
10	Lothar MATTHAUS	D	150	22
11	Paulo RINK	F	11	0
12	Jens LEHMANN	G	12	0
13	Michael BALLACK	M	9	0
14	Dietmar HAMANN	M	27	2
15	Dariusz WOSZ	M	14	1
16	Jens JEREMIES	M	25	1
17	Christian ZIEGE	M	52	8
18	Sebastian DEISLER	M	6	0
19	Carsten JANCKER	F	9	3
20	Oliver BIERHOFF	F	50	30
21	Carsten RAMELOW	M	9	0
22	Hans-Jorg BUTT	G	1	0

Coach: Erich RIBBECK

HOLLAND

No		Pos	Caps	Gls
1	Edwin VAN DER SAR	G	51	0
2	Michael REIZIGER	D	42	1
3	Jaap STAM	D	36	3
4	Frank DE BOER	D	81	9
5	Boudewijn ZENDEN	M	26	5
6	Clarence SEEDORF	M	50	7
7	Philip COCU	M	46	4
8	Edgar DAVIDS	M	35	4
9	Patrick KLUIVERT	F	45	28
10	Dennis BERGKAMP	F	79	36
11	Marc OVERMARS	M	60	13
12	Giovanni VAN BRONCKHORST	M	19	1
13	Bert KONTERMAN	D	11	0
14	Peter VAN VOSSEN	F	31	9
15	Paul BOSVELT	M	6	0
16	Ronald DE BOER	M	61	13
17	Pierre VAN HOOIJDONK	F	20	7
18	Ed DE GOEY	G	31	0
19	Arthur NUMAN	D	40	0
20	Aron WINTER	M	84	6
21	Roy MAKAAY	F	8	0
22	Sander WESTERVELD	G	5	0

Coach: Frank RIJKAARD

ITALY

No		Pos	Caps	Gls
1	Christian ABBIATI*	G	0	0
2	Ciro FERRARA	D	49	0
3	Paolo MALDINI	D	110	7
4	Demetrio ALBERTINI	M	71	2
5	Fabio CANNAVARO	D	40	0
6	Paolo NEGRO	D	7	0
7	Angelo DI LIVIO	M	29	0
8	Antonio CONTE	M	20	2
9	Filippo INZAGHI	F	24	8
10	Alessandro DEL PIERO	F	36	11
11	Gianluca PESSOTTO	D	19	0
12	Francesco TOLDO	G	14	0
13	Alessandro NESTA	D	30	0
14	Luigi DI BIAGIO	M	19	2
15	Mark IULIANO	D	11	0
16	Massimo AMBROSINI	M	8	0
17	Gianluca ZAMBROTTA	M	10	0
18	Stefano FIORE	M	10	1
19	Vincenzo MONTELLA	F	6	0
20	Francesco TOTTI	F	17	3
21	Marco DELVECCHIO	F	6	1
22	Francesco ANTONIOLI	G	0	0

*Abbiati replaced Gianluigi Buffon

Coach: Dino ZOFF

Caps and goals statistics are up to and including the Euro 2000 Final

NORWAY

No		Pos	Caps	Gls
1	Thomas MYHRE	G	13	0
2	Andre BERGDOLMO	D	27	0
3	Bjorn Otto BRAGSTAD	D	14	0
4	Henning BERG	D	71	8
5	Trond ANDERSEN	D	8	0
6	Roar STRAND	M	25	4
7	Erik MYKLAND	M	75	2
8	Staale SOLBAKKEN	M	58	9
9	Tore Andre FLO	F	51	21
10	Kjetil REKDAL	M	83	17
11	Bent SKAMMELSRUD	M	37	6
12	Frode OLSEN	G	14	0
13	Morten BAKKE	G	1	0
14	Vegard HEGGEM	D	20	1
15	John Arne RIISE	M	6	1
16	Dan EGGEN	D	21	2
17	John CAREW	F	16	3
18	Steffen IVERSEN	F	18	6
19	Eirik BAKKE	M	8	0
20	Ole Gunnar SOLSKJAER	F	34	14
21	Vidar RISETH	M	26	2
22	Stig Inge BJORNEBYE	D	73	1

Coach: Nils Johan SEMB

PORTUGAL

No		Pos	Caps	Gls
1	VITOR BAIA	G	74	0
2	JORGE COSTA	D	31	0
3	RUI JORGE	D	6	0
4	Jose VIDIGAL	M	6	0
5	FERNANDO COUTO	D	67	6
6	PAULO SOUSA	M	45	0
7	Luis FIGO	M	64	15
8	JOAO PINTO	F	61	19
9	Ricardo SA PINTO	F	39	8
10	RUI COSTA	M	55	18
11	SERGIO CONCEICAO	M	28	5
12	PEDRO ESPINHA	G	4	0
13	DIMAS	D	38	0
14	ABEL XAVIER	D	15	2
15	Francisco DA COSTA	M	7	1
16	BETO	D	7	0
17	PAULO BENTO	M	25	0
18	PAULETA	F	14	3
19	Nuno CAPUCHO	M	16	2
20	SECRETARIO	D	29	1
21	NUNO GOMES	F	16	4
22	QUIM	G	3	0

Coach: Humberto COELHO

ROMANIA

No		Pos	Caps	Gls
1	Bogdan LOBONT	G	10	0
2	Dan PETRESCU	D	92	12
3	Liviu CIOBOTARIU	D	24	1
4	Iulian FILIPESCU	D	38	0
5	Constantin GALCA	M	58	4
6	Gheorghe POPESCU	D	101	15
7	Adrian MUTU	F	7	1
8	Dorinel MUNTEANU	M	90	11
9	Viorel MOLDOVAN	F	52	21
10	Gheorghe HAGI	M	125	34
11	Adrian ILIE	F	37	11
12	Bogdan STELEA	G	69	0
13	Cristian CHIVU	D	8	1
14	Florentin PETRE	M	19	2
15	Ioan LUPESCU	M	72	6
16	Laurentiu ROSU	M	16	3
17	Miodrag BELODEDICI	D	52	5
18	Ioan GANEA	F	16	9
19	Erik LINCAR	M	3	0
20	Catalin HALDAN	M	6	0
21	Florin PRUNEA	G	38	0
22	Cosmin CONTRA	D	15	0

Coach: Emerich JENEI

SLOVENIA

No		Pos	Caps	Gls
1	Marko SIMEUNOVIC	G	28	0
2	Spasoje BULAJIC	D	10	1
3	Zeljko MILINOVIC	D	21	0
4	Darko MILANIC	D	44	0
5	Marinko GALIC	D	55	0
6	Aleksander KNAVS	D	24	1
7	Djoni NOVAK	M	53	3
8	Ales CEH	M	56	1
9	Saso UDOVIC	F	41	17
10	Zlatko ZAHOVIC	M	51	26
11	Miran PAVLIN	M	29	4
12	Mladen DABANOVIC	G	17	0
13	Mladen RUDONJA	M	42	0
14	Sasa GAJSER	M	6	1
15	Rudi ISTENIC	D	17	0
16	Anton ZLOGAR	M	1	0
17	Ermin SILJAK	F	20	4
18	Milenko ACIMOVIC	F	25	6
19	Amir KARIC	D	29	1
20	Milan OSTERC	F	25	5
21	Zoran PAVLOVIC	M	5	0
22	Dejan NEMEC	G	0	0

Coach: Srecko KATANEC

SPAIN

No		Pos	Caps	Gls
1	Santiago CANIZARES	G	26	0
2	MICHEL SALGADO	D	17	0
3	Agustin ARANZABAL	D	21	0
4	Josep GUARDIOLA	M	39	5
5	ABELARDO	D	47	3
6	Fernando HIERRO	D	73	23
7	IVAN HELGUERA	M	10	0
8	FRAN	M	16	2
9	Pedro MUNITIS	F	12	2
10	RAUL Gonzalez	F	35	17
11	ALFONSO Perez	F	38	11
12	SERGI Barjuan	D	47	1
13	Iker CASILLAS	G	2	0
14	GERARD	M	3	0
15	Vicente ENGONGA	M	14	1
16	Gaizka MENDIETA	M	17	4
17	Joseba ETXEBERRIA	M	30	7
18	PACO Jemez	D	16	0
19	Juan VELASCO	D	4	0
20	Ismael URZAIZ	F	20	8
21	Juan Carlos VALERON	M	13	0
22	Jose Francisco MOLINA	G	9	0

Coach: Jose Antonio CAMACHO

SWEDEN

No		Pos	Caps	Gls
1	Magnus HEDMAN	G	25	0
2	Roland NILSSON	D	112	2
3	Patrik ANDERSSON	D	78	2
4	Joachim BJORKLUND	D	75	0
5	Teddy LUCIC	D	31	0
6	Gary SUNDGREN	D	29	1
7	Hakan MILD	M	58	6
8	Tomas GUSTAFSSON	D	4	0
9	Fredrik LJUNGBERG	M	17	2
10	Jorgen PETTERSSON	F	25	7
11	Niclas ALEXANDERSSON	M	44	5
12	Magnus KIHLSTEDT	G	6	0
13	Magnus SVENSSON	M	13	0
14	Olof MELLBERG	D	6	0
15	Daniel ANDERSSON	M	21	0
16	Anders ANDERSSON	M	14	2
17	Johan MJALLBY	M	21	3
18	Yksel OSMANOVSKI	F	8	2
19	Kennet ANDERSSON	F	78	31
20	Henrik LARSSON	F	50	11
21	Marcus ALLBACK	F	4	1
22	Mattias ASPER	G	2	0

Coaches: Tommy SODERBERG & Lars LAGERBACK

TURKEY

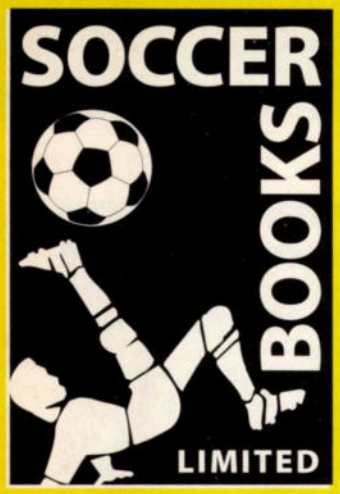
No		Pos	Caps	Gls
1	RUSTU Recber	G	46	0
2	TAYFUR Havutcu	M	25	5
3	OGUN Temizkanoglu	D	64	5
4	FATIH Akyel	D	18	0
5	ALPAY Ozalan	D	49	1
6	ARIF Erdem	F	37	6
7	OKAN Buruk	M	14	1
8	TUGAY Kerimoglu	M	59	2
9	HAKAN Sukur	F	56	28
10	SERGEN Yalcin	M	32	5
11	TAYFUN Korkut	D	27	0
12	OMER Catkic	G	0	0
13	OSMAN Ozkoylu	D	6	0
14	SUAT Kaya	M	10	1
15	Muzzy IZZET	M	1	0
16	ERGUN Penbe	M	5	0
17	OKTAY Derelioglu	F	14	8
18	AYHAN Akman	M	6	0
19	ABDULLAH Ercan	M	54	0
20	HAKAN Unsal	M	15	0
21	FEVZI Tuncay	G	1	0
22	UMIT Davala	D	9	0

Coach: Mustafa DENIZLI

YUGOSLAVIA

No		Pos	Caps	Gls
1	Aleksandar KOCIC	G	16	0
2	Ivan DUDIC	D	2	0
3	Goran DJOROVIC	D	43	0
4	Slavisa JOKANOVIC	M	53	8
5	Miroslav DJUKIC	D	40	1
6	Dejan STANKOVIC	M	20	6
7	Vladimir JUGOVIC	M	37	3
8	Predrag MIJATOVIC	F	50	22
9	Savo MILOSEVIC	F	49	25
10	Dragan STOJKOVIC	M	80	15
11	Sinisa MIHAJLOVIC	D	46	5
12	Zeljko CICOVIC	G	2	0
13	Slobodan KOMLJENOVIC	D	20	3
14	Nisa SAVELJIC	D	30	1
15	Goran BUNJEVCEVIC	D	3	0
16	Dejan GOVEDARICA	M	19	2
17	Ljubinko DRULOVIC	M	29	3
18	Darko KOVACEVIC	F	36	5
19	Jovan STANKOVIC	M	9	0
20	Mateja KEZMAN	F	3	1
21	Albert NADJ	M	29	3
22	Ivica KRALJ	G	36	0

Coach: Vujadin BOSKOV



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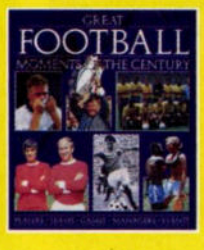

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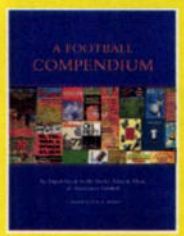

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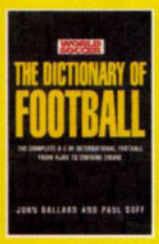

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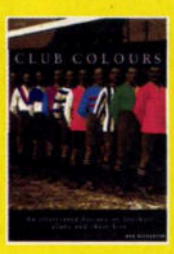

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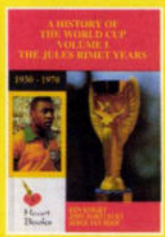

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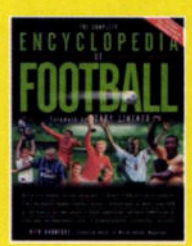

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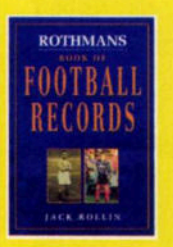

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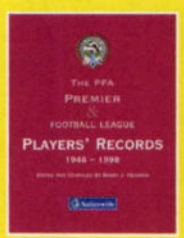

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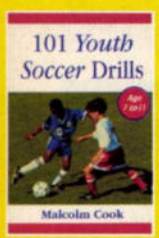

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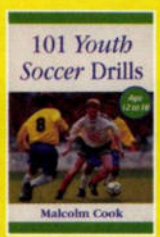

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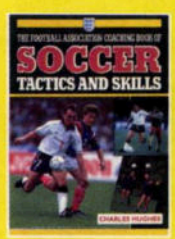

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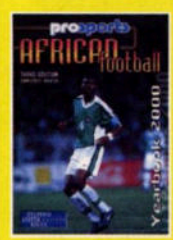

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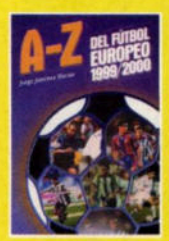

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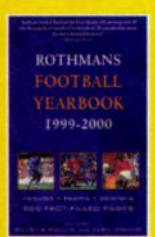

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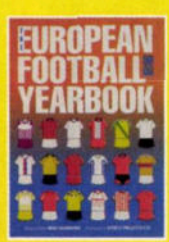

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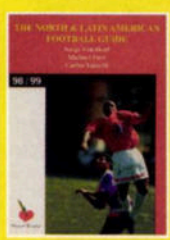

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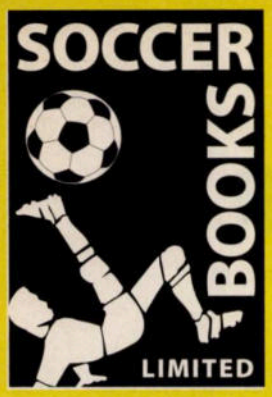

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Real quality puts Portugal top

England and Germany lumber out as Coelho's men use their ability to the full

PORTUGAL sailed through to the quarter-finals, playing some magical football and transcending the diversions presented by English hooligans in Brussels and Charleroi.

Romania qualified in second place ahead of the two former heavyweights, England and Germany, who were surprisingly outclassed amid the realisation that reputations count for little. Quality players and sound tactics are what matter most. England lacked the latter, Germany the former.

The Portuguese had both. In Nuno Gomes, they appeared to have found a striker who could at least operate respectably at international level. But Portugal's most effective work was done behind their lone forward. Paulo Bento and Vidigal provided a sound defensive base in midfield, enabling Rui Costa, Luis Figo and Joao Pinto to use their pace, movement and technique to devastating effect.

Against England in Eindhoven, a 2-0 deficit was turned on its head as Portugal ran out 3-2 winners. The result owed much to England's failure to kill the game off once they had gone two goals to the good. But equally, the ability of the Portuguese midfield to exploit the space given to them should not be underestimated.

Portugal again demonstrated their resilience against Romania in Arnhem, substitute Francisco Da Costa heading the only goal deep in injury time to secure his country's place in the last eight.

'Quality players and sound tactics are what matter most. England lacked the latter, Germany the former'

Ole Sergio...Portugal's hat-trick hero Conceicao is mobbed after scoring against Germany

The 3-0 defeat of Germany by a virtual B team in their final game served to highlight the strength of Portugal's challenge, as well as highlighting the depths to which the Germans by then had sunk.

Erich Ribbeck's resignation as coach was inevitable, as the debate over the future of German football – ongoing since defeat by Croatia at France 98 – intensified.

On Germany's return home, reports surfaced that a group of players, led by Dietmar Hamann, Jens Jeremies and Markus Babbel, had approached Lothar Matthaus before the tournament with a view to his taking over as coach from Ribbeck. The idea was to kill two birds with one stone: get rid of Ribbeck and force Matthaus to renounce his playing role.

Matthaus, who won his 150th cap in the Portugal match, claims to have rejected the approach, but he remained a prominent target for criticism during and after the tournament as the country sought explanations for their failure to reach the second stage for the first time since 1984.

England's 1-0 victory over Germany in Charleroi had all but eliminated Ribbeck's ageing side. The result was celebrated in England as hugely significant, yet here were arguably the two worst teams in the competition.

Romania's progress into the quarter-finals was pleasing. They did it the hard way, needing a last-minute penalty to beat England, but coach Emerich Jenei was rewarded for his introduction of young talent such as Cristian Chivu and Adrian Mutu to play alongside veterans Gheorghe Hagi and Gica Popescu. Indeed, Romania played their best football, against England in Charleroi, when without suspended captain Hagi.

England's departure will not have been mourned by many. In an unprecedented move, UEFA had warned England that further violence from their hooligan fringe, after the trouble in Brussels and Charleroi, would lead to the team's enforced departure. UEFA had made a direct challenge to the British government to follow the example of other countries, notably Germany, and prevent known hooligans from leaving the country. In the end, Kevin Keegan's side threw themselves out before they were thrown out.

The England coach's optimism was never going to compensate for his tactical shortcomings, and the limitations of both team and boss were exposed by Portugal and Romania. The win over Germany was achieved largely because the Germans, missing the injured Oliver Bierhoff, lacked firepower in attack.

Gavin Hamilton

Close thing...Deisler v Chivu

12/06/00

GERMANY 1 ROMANIA 1

Sluggish champions made to struggle

GERMANY opened their defence of the European title with a sluggish, uninspired display. Rumours of their decline had not been exaggerated.

We have become accustomed over the years to seeing late goals from Germany. The sight of an ageing German defence conceding soft early goals is a relatively new phenomenon, but an increasingly common one in recent years.

Romania scored after five minutes following a slip-up by Thomas Linke. He lost his bearings trying to intercept a long ball meant for Adrian Ilie, who skipped past him and crossed for Viorel Moldovan to pounce at the far post.

Confusion in the German backline was a common theme of the first half. The evergreen Gheorghe Hagi exposed Lothar Matthaus's lack of pace with a through pass which was met by goalkeeper Oliver Kahn just ahead of the onrushing Dan Petrescu, and Moldovan headed over from an Ilie cross after a run from Hagi.

While the Germans struggled to settle their affairs at the back, Mehmet Scholl and Oliver Bierhoff at least tried to redress the balance further forward, and in the 28th minute Scholl created a goal from nothing. Linke found himself in a dead end down the right, but Markus Babbel arrived to provide assistance, and managed to squeeze the ball through to Scholl. From the edge of the area, the Bayern Munich midfielder curled his shot past Bogdan Stelea for the equaliser.

But the Germans, with little cutting edge in front of Scholl, never looked like scoring again. Veteran midfielder Thomas Hassler, recalled for the tournament and winning his 100th cap, could not help but vent his frustration at his captain, Bierhoff, when he failed to respond to a low shot driven across the six-yard box from the left. In contrast, Ilie and Moldovan were willing and able front-runners.

Romania should have had a penalty shortly before the break when Ilie went down after turning inside Jens Nowotny. Ilie and Hagi were booked for protesting, but television replays showed they had a case.

Moldovan had further chances, but his header from a Hagi cross sailed over, and he then blasted his shot too high with the goal at his mercy, after Kahn and Nowotny had scrambled away a shot by Ilie.

Germany coach Erich Ribbeck replaced Hassler and Matthaus with Dietmar Hamann and Sebastian Deisler, while Romania introduced their great hope, Adrian Mutu. But it was all to no avail, and the game, like the two teams' chances in the tournament, tailed away early.

Gavin Hamilton

12/06/00

PORTUGAL 3 ENGLAND 2

Portuguese flair turns the game around

PORTUGAL hit back in sensational style from being 2-0 down after 18 minutes. It was a thrilling turnaround in a meeting that presented a stark contrast in styles between the direct English game and Portuguese delicacy, inspired by man-of-the-match Luis Figo and magical Rui Costa.

But the Portuguese had more than mere technical trickery. They appeared to rain in more shots on goal than in all their games at Euro 96 and were rewarded with goals from Figo, Joao Pinto and Nuno Gomes – his first for his country.

England finished shell-shocked at being beaten, having apparently seized control with early goals from Paul Scholes and Steve McManaman. This was the first time England had lost a match from 2-0 up since the 1970 World Cup against Germany.

Less than three minutes had gone when Scholes rose above a flat-footed defence to direct home a right-wing cross from his Manchester United team-mate David Beckham.

Portugal immediately tried to snap back. In the 11th minute a teasing right-wing cross from Rui Costa was headed down with such force at the far post by Joao Pinto that it bounced up and over the bar.

Shortly afterwards, England broke away to score a second. Another Beckham cross took the defence apart and McManaman swept the ball into the roof of the net from close range. So England were two goals clear – but not for long. Four minutes later Figo fired Portugal back into the game with a superb drive from 25 yards. Tony Adams retreated, giving Figo time and space to send his shot slicing off Adams's heel and then on up and beyond David Seaman.

In the 37th minute Seaman was at fault as Portugal drew level. This time Rui Costa's cross was headed home by Joao Pinto, diving in courageously ahead of Paul Ince.

England coach Kevin Keegan replaced Michael Owen at half-time with his fellow Liverpool striker Emile Heskey. Fans might have wondered whether Keegan would have been better advised to substitute shaky Seaman, especially after Nuno Gomes shot Portugal ahead from

SIDELINES

Resigned...Erich Ribbeck

GERMANY coach Erich Ribbeck announced his resignation 12 hours after defeat by Portugal in his team's final group match. "The decision is a consequence of the team's catastrophic elimination," he said. When asked if he had been disappointed by the players, Ribbeck replied: "Yes, I feel I have been let down."

BELGIAN police deported 495 English hooligans following the trouble in Brussels and Charleroi. In all, 1,301 arrests were made in Belgium between June 10 and June 24, of which 758 (58 per cent) were English fans. Others arrested included 229 Belgians, 157 Germans and 27 French.

ENGLAND captain Alan Shearer confirmed after the defeat by Romania that he had played his last international match.

GERMANY captain Oliver Bierhoff was ruled out of the tournament after breaking down during a training match with a calf injury. He missed the matches against England and Portugal.

PORTUGAL midfielder Rui Costa announced during Euro 2000 that he intended to leave Fiorentina. "I sent, through my agent, an official letter to that effect," he said. "I no longer consider myself part of the club. I will talk about my future after the tournament. I want to go, that much is clear. The rest is down to my agent."

close range when Joao Pinto's angled pass sliced the defence apart.

England's attack, so threatening in the first quarter, now lacked all cohesion, though Scholes twice went close in the 78th minute, first seeing a shot blocked and then heading wide from the subsequent corner. But the chants of "Ole!" at the final whistle all came from Portuguese fans.

Keir Radnedge

17/06/00

ROMANIA 0 PORTUGAL 1

Da Costa does the trick

SUBSTITUTE Francisco Da Costa's winner in injury time gave Portugal their second consecutive win and ensured qualification for the quarter-finals. Yet there was little other drama in a rather insipid encounter on a baking hot day in Arnhem.

Portugal started brightly enough, with their golden attacking triangle of Luis Figo, Rui Costa and Joao Pinto keeping the Romanians on the back foot with their clever interplay. But for all their possession and territorial domination during the opening 15 minutes, the Portuguese created very little, and slowly but surely their ascendancy ebbed away and Romania began to threaten.

Vitor Baia twice saved his side, intervening at Viorel Moldovan's feet following a long cross from the impressive young full-back Cristian Chivu, then moving smartly to divert an Adrian Ilie free-kick.

Not much then for the spectators to get their teeth into before the break. Indeed, the most prominent figure on the pitch was French referee Gilles Veissiere, who produced four yellow cards, including one for Romania skipper Gheorghe Hagi, which meant he would be suspended from his country's final group game, against England.

Romania coach Emerich Jenei had predicted a "spectacular show from two great passing teams" but the second half proved just how fallible insider information can be. The most talented performers on show, Figo, Rui Costa and Hagi, all appeared off-colour, and with passes going astray at regular intervals, both defences were operating in the comfort zone.

Chances were just as much at a premium as in the first half, and only five minutes were left when there was a long-awaited cameo from Hagi: a shuffle into space, short back-lift and thumping left-foot shot which Vitor Baia put over the bar.

A goalless draw seemed the only logical conclusion to such a forgettable game, but the tedium was not to be wall-to-wall. Figo swung in a free-kick from the left and Da Costa rose above the melee to head his first international goal.

With the referee blowing for full-time almost immediately afterwards, the Romanians sank to their knees in horror and Cosmin Contra was so distraught that he lay on the ground for several minutes before Fernando Couto went over to help him up.

This was Portugal's first win against Romania since Euro 84, when the Portuguese eventually reached the semi-finals. A sign of destiny?

Nick Bidwell

17/06/00

ENGLAND 1 GERMANY 0

Shearer ends that 34-year wait

ALAN SHEARER answered his critics with his 29th international goal to give England a realistic chance of reaching the quarter-finals. The victory over Germany in Charleroi was their first competitive win over their old rivals since the 1966 World Cup Final.

Coach Kevin Keegan hit out afterwards at the English press for their criticism of Shearer. "He has been knocked and pummelled by the media, who have questioned his right to be in the side and questioned his right to be captain. But once again he has come in and got his goal. He is a man among men."

This was a meeting of two former superpowers of the world game, but relying on former glories was never going to take either team very far in the tournament. And for all the euphoria that greeted this cathartic victory, Keegan's team began poorly. They did not seem to have learned the lessons of the defeat by Portugal, allowing Mehmet Scholl the freedom to run in central midfield and organise German attacks.

It's up there somewhere...Owen and Popescu clash in Charleroi

David Seaman saved from Dietmar Hamann and then turned Scholl's low shot around the near post. England picked up their game following a header by Michael Owen in the 35th minute, their first effort on target, which Oliver Kahn, diving at full stretch to his left, palmed on to a post. David Beckham, inevitably, was the provider for Owen, and for Paul Scholes, whose shot was pushed away by Kahn. And it was Beckham who won and took the free-kick which resulted in the only goal.

Christian Ziege fouled Beckham on the right. The resulting set-piece, curled in at pace, missed Owen and Jens Nowotny, bounced over Markus Babbel and Scholes, and fell for Shearer, who headed past Kahn.

Germany replaced Ulf Kirsten with Paulo Rink and threw on an extra attacker, Marco Bode, but their fundamental problems, a lack of pace and imagination, remained.

Carsten Jancker went closest, flicking the ball past Sol Campbell but shooting past a post. He then shot wide after Kirsten's close-range strike had been pushed away by Seaman.

For once, Keegan made a sensible substitution, bringing on youngster Steven Gerrard for Owen. Gerrard's arrival coincided with England's best period, as defence and midfield held out against German attacks.

Gavin Hamilton

20/06/00

ENGLAND 2 ROMANIA 3

Neville's nightmare seals England failure

KEVIN KEEGAN was typically honest in his appraisal of how England, needing just a point to qualify, had thrown away a 2-1 lead to Romania and crashed out of the tournament.

"You have to ask if we can pass the ball better and control the game," he said. "The answer in this tournament is that, sadly, we couldn't.

"You cannot spend 60 minutes chasing the ball, chasing the game, and expect to succeed at this level."

Substitute Ioan Ganea struck from the penalty spot with one minute remaining to send England out and set up a quarter-final meeting with Italy.

Phil Neville's clumsy foul on Viorel Moldovan had cost the penalty, so England ended up throwing themselves out of Euro 2000 rather than being kicked out because of the behaviour of their hooligan fans.

Keegan named the same 11 players who had started against Germany, but goalkeeper David Seaman was injured in the warm-up and was replaced by Nigel Martyn.

Romania had the better of the early play, with Adrian Mutu, in for the suspended Gheorghe Hagi, linking well with Adrian Ilie and Moldovan.

Martyn was tested as early as the third minute when he dived to push away Ilie's fierce free-kick. But

he could not stop a Cristian Chivu cross aimed for Moldovan in the 22nd minute. The ball hit the far post and bounced back over the line for the opening goal.

England's equaliser late in the first half came from a penalty, and for once did not involve a David Beckham set-piece. Alan Shearer chested down a throw-in from Phil Neville and played the ball square to the onrushing Paul Ince, who was tripped by Chivu. Shearer put the spot kick to Bogdan Stelea's right as the keeper dived the wrong way.

Then, entirely against the run of play, England went ahead in first-half injury time. Paul Scholes played a hopeful punt over the Romanian defence for Michael Owen, who beat the offside trap, poked the ball past Stelea and turned it into the net.

Three minutes into the second half Martyn punched Dan Petrescu's cross only as far as Dorinel Munteanu, whose instant return made it 2-2.

Romania continued to press forward in search of the winner. England were over-run time and time again but they looked to have held out until Phil Neville brought down Moldovan on the right of the area. Referee Urs Meier had no hesitation in awarding a penalty.

Gavin Hamilton

20/06/00

PORTUGAL 3 GERMANY 0

Germany humiliated by Conceicao and Co

GERMANY's reign as European champions ended in the most humiliating way possible as they were outclassed and outfought by Portugal's rampant reserves. Sergio Conceicao scored a hat-trick as, for the first time in 16 years, the Germans failed to reach the second round of a major tournament.

Erich Ribbeck's team deserved no more. They were technically and tactically inferior and even short of those traditional Teutonic qualities of peak fitness and never-say-die spirit.

With qualification for the next round already guaranteed, Portugal coach Humberto Coelho opted to rest the bulk of his first choices, while Ribbeck also reshuffled, making four changes.

The official line was that Markus Babbel and Jens Jeremies were injured, but, for many not taken in by spin, the pair had paid the price for clashing with Ribbeck. Lothar Matthaus, winning his 150th cap, again occupied a free role in front of the back line.

Germany knew that their qualification for the last eight was unlikely, but to their credit they showed some belief, at least in the early stages.

Only a timely block by Conceicao prevented Mehmet Scholl from converting Carsten Jancker's cross, Jancker turned Fernando Couto and fired just wide, and Scholl cleverly put Marco Bode through, only for his low drive to come back off a post.

Even good fortune had turned its back on Germany, and within four minutes they went behind. Pauleta's deflected cross looped over Oliver Kahn and was bundled in by Conceicao.

Past German sides would have hit back, but the present crop is not made of such stuff and in the second half they were simply swept aside.

Ten minutes after the restart, Conceicao cut inside half-hearted challenges from Thomas Linke and Dietmar Hamann, and hammered the ball past Kahn.

Conceicao went on to complete his hat-trick with a sweetly-struck angled drive. The poorest German team of the modern era were down and out, and the recriminations back home could begin in earnest.

Nick Bidwell

RESULTS

JUNE 12 – LIEGE

Germany 1 (Scholl 28)
Romania 1 (Moldovan 5)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 28,500. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
Germany (3-5-2): Kahn - Linke (Rehmer 46), Matthaus (Deisler 77), Nowotny - Babbel, Hassler (Hamann 73), Jeremies, Scholl, Ziege - Bierhoff, Rink.
Booked: none.
Romania (3-5-2): Stelea - Ciobotariu, Popescu, Filipescu - Petrescu (Contra 69), Galca, Hagi (Mutu 73), Munteanu, Chivu - Moldovan (Lupescu 85), Ilie.
Booked: Hagi, Ilie.

JUNE 12 – EINDHOVEN

Portugal 3 (Figo 22, Joao Pinto 37, Nuno Gomes 59)
England 2 (Scholes 3, McManaman 18)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 31,500. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Portugal (4-2-3-1): Vitor Baia - Abel Xavier, Jorge Costa, Fernando Couto, Dimas - Paulo Bento, Vidigal - Figo, Rui Costa (Beto 85), Joao Pinto (Sergio Conceicao 76) - Nuno Gomes (Capucho 90).
Booked: Vitor Baia.
England (4-4-2): Seaman - G Neville, Adams (Keown 82), Campbell, P Neville - Beckham, Ince, Scholes, McManaman (Wise 58) - Shearer, Owen (Heskey 46).
Booked: Ince.

JUNE 17 – ARNHEM

Romania 0
Portugal 1 (Da Costa 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 21,000. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Romania (4-3-1-2): Stelea - Contra, Popescu, Filipescu, Chivu - Petrescu (Petre 64), Galca, Munteanu - Hagi - Moldovan (Ganea 69), Ilie (Rosu 78).
Booked: Hagi, Petrescu, Contra.
Portugal (4-2-3-1): Vitor Baia - Secretario, Fernando Couto, Jorge Costa, Dimas - Paulo Bento, Vidigal - Figo, Rui Costa (Da Costa 87), Joao Pinto (Sergio Conceicao 57) - Nuno Gomes (Sa Pinto 57).
Booked: Figo.

JUNE 17 – CHARLEROI

England 1 (Shearer 53)
Germany 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 27,700. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
England (4-4-2): Seaman - G Neville, Keown, Campbell, P Neville - Beckham, Ince, Scholes (Barmby 72), Wise - Shearer, Owen (Gerrard 61).
Booked: Beckham.
Germany (3-5-2): Kahn - Babbel, Matthaus, Nowotny - Deisler (Ballack 72), Hamann, Scholl, Jeremies (Bode 78), Ziege - Jancker, Kirsten (Rink 70).
Booked: Jeremies, Babbel.

JUNE 20 – CHARLEROI

England 2 (Shearer pen 41, Owen 45)
Romania 3 (Chivu 22, Munteanu 48, Ganea pen 89)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 27,000. **Ref:** Meier (Swi)
England (4-4-2): Martyn - G Neville, Keown, Campbell, P Neville - Beckham, Ince, Scholes (Southgate 81), Wise (Barmby 75) - Shearer, Owen (Heskey 67).
Booked: Shearer.
Romania (4-3-1-2): Stelea - Contra, Popescu (Belodedici 32), Filipescu, Chivu - Petrescu, Galca (Rosu 68), Munteanu - Mutu - Moldovan, Ilie (Ganea 74).
Booked: Chivu, Petrescu, Contra, Ilie, Filipescu.

JUNE 20 – ROTTERDAM

Portugal 3 (Sergio Conceicao 35, 54, 71)
Germany 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 44,000. **Ref:** Jol (Hol)
Portugal (4-4-2): Pedro Espinha (Quim 90) - Beto, Jorge Costa, Fernando Couto, Rui Jorge - Sergio Conceicao, Da Costa, Paulo Sousa (Vidigal 72), Capucho - Pauleta (Nuno Gomes 67), Sa Pinto.
Booked: Beto.
Germany (3-1-5-1): Kahn - Rehmer, Nowotny, Linke - Matthaus - Deisler, Ballack (Rink 46), Scholl (Hassler 60), Hamann, Bode - Jancker (Kirsten 69).
Booked: Ballack, Jancker, Deisler, Rink.

GROUP A – FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	3	3	0	0	7	2	9
Romania	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
England	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
Germany	3	0	1	2	1	5	1

Zoff vindicated as Italy flourish

The Azzurri coach gets his tactics spot on, while the Turks put paid to co-hosts Belgium

Perfect start...Filippo Inzaghi tucks away Italy's penalty winner against Turkey

DINO ZOFF could afford a wry smile after overseeing Italy's safe passage to the quarter-finals. Zoff's team had been criticised for their performances in the build-up to Euro 2000, when injuries to Christian Vieri and first-choice keeper Gianluigi Buffon had further dampened Italian hopes.

So to reach the second round with a 100 per cent record was particularly sweet for Zoff. Yet things might have been markedly different had not Scottish referee Hugh Dallas awarded Italy a highly contentious penalty against Turkey in their first game.

The spot-kick was won and converted by Filippo Inzaghi to give the *Azzurri* a 2-1 victory in Arnhem.

The Turks, under Mustafa Denizli, eventually gained ample compensation when recording their first win in a European Championship finals, over co-hosts Belgium, to go through to the last eight.

Both Zoff and Denizli had to endure criticism from the media in their respective countries.

Zoff stuck to his preferred striking partnership of Francesco Totti and Filippo Inzaghi, with Stefano Fiore behind them in the midfield playmaking role. Alessandro Del Piero had to be content with a place on the bench for the first two games. A fan's banner at Italy's training ground with the message "Zoff, give us a present, Del Piero in the first team" gave a fair reflection of the mood.

Zoff responded by starting with Del Piero in Italy's third game, against Sweden. He scored the winner late on to intensify the debate over who should start in the quarter-final – Totti, Del Piero, or both.

"Dear Zoff," appealed an editorial in *Gazzetta dello Sport*. "Find a place for this 12th man who, with a touch of quality and imagination, can propel Italy towards the Final."

It was a dilemma that Zoff was happy to accept, safe in the knowledge that his team were growing in confidence with every match.

Denizli faced a storm of criticism following the 2-1 defeat by Italy. "Why didn't you give this team a friendly for four months?" asked the daily *Hurriyet*. "Maybe if you had, the national team's mistakes and incredibly dreadful football would have been seen and measures could have been taken." Yet a week later, Turkey's players were national heroes following their 2-0 defeat of co-hosts Belgium.

The Belgians had looked to be on course for the quarter-finals following victory over Sweden in the opening match, when Marc Wilmots and Yves Vanderhaeghe controlled the midfield and Emile Mpenza provided the cutting edge.

But goalkeeper Filip De Wilde, who had looked the weak link in the side that night, was exposed against Turkey – at fault for the first goal, then sent off for a crude challenge on Arif Erdem.

The revival in Belgian fortunes under coach Robert Waseige proved a false dawn, while Sweden never recovered from the defeat by Belgium. Injuries to key players – Henrik Larsson, Stefan Schwarz – before the tournament were compounded by further setbacks during it.

'Zoff could accept the dilemma over Del Piero, knowing his team were growing in confidence with every match'

Patrik Andersson was sent off against Belgium, while injuries to Roland Nilsson and Teddy Lucic reduced Swedish options in defence.

Gavin Hamilton

Mad moment...De Wilde floors Arif

Jump to it...Belgium and Sweden contest a high ball

10/06/00

BELGIUM 2 SWEDEN 1

Belgium squeeze a win for starters

IN a break with tradition, the opening match of Euro 2000 was a lively affair, with goals, gaffes and a sending-off. After a bizarre opening ceremony featuring lots of balloons and a giant inflatable footballer, co-hosts Belgium sent the home crowd scurrying out of the King Baudouin stadium in Brussels with smiles on their faces, following a solid but unexceptional performance.

For Sweden, it was a disastrous result. They lost their captain Patrik Andersson, sent off and banned from their next game, against Italy, and Roland Nilsson, who was forced to spend a night in hospital with concussion.

The Swedes had begun brightly enough, with the aerial presence of Kennet Andersson and the pace of Jorgen Pettersson causing problems.

Belgium, however, played a more controlled game, and a good build-up by Bart Goor and Marc Wilmots set up Emile Mpenza, who headed Gert Verheyen's cross over.

The first goal came two minutes before the break following an error by a concussed Nilsson. Goor pounced on the right-back's indecision to steal the ball, run into the area and shoot inside the near post.

Nilsson was replaced at half-time. But whatever co-coaches Lars Lagerback and Tommy Soderberg did and said during the interval was undone within a minute of the restart. A clever flick by Wilmots played in Emile Mpenza, who controlled the ball with a combination of chest and upper arm before hitting a half-volley into the roof of the net.

Sweden responded by throwing on Henrik Larsson but it was Belgian goalkeeper Filip De Wilde who injected new life into the game with a dreadful mistake. De Wilde, trying to clear a harmless back-pass, trod on the ball, allowing the onrushing Johan Mjallby to walk it into an empty net.

De Wilde made some sort of amends a few minutes later when saving with his feet as Freddie Ljungberg bore down on goal.

With that chance gone, Sweden's chances of salvaging something from the match also disappeared. When Andersson was sent off for a two-footed lunge on Goor – a second yellow card – their challenge evaporated.

Gavin Hamilton

11/06/00

TURKEY 1 ITALY 2

Past masters raise their game again

AS always seemed likely, and indeed as *World Soccer* had predicted, Italy proved one more time that when it comes to the real thing they are past masters at raising their game. The Italians left a whole string of poor friendly performances far behind them with a vastly improved showing in their opening game.

Even though the victory ultimately hinged on a highly debatable penalty decision by Scottish referee Hugh Dallas, Italy had done enough to deserve the three points. It was hard to disagree with coach Dino Zoff when he pointed out afterwards that Italy had not only scored two goals but had created a series of chances, hit the woodwork twice and had one possibly valid goal disallowed.

In the battle of the coaches, Zoff emerged the winner, appearing to make the right decision when opting to field Francesco Totti rather than Alessandro Del Piero alongside Filippo Inzaghi in attack. With these two supported by Stefano Fiore, Italy presented an attacking trio that caused Turkey a lot of problems early on.

Having been initially overwhelmed, however, the Turks got back into the game after 20 minutes, looking good value for the 0-0 half-time scoreline. Nine minutes into the second half, though, Antonio Conte underlined his reputation for scoring goals that matter with a spectacular overhead kick after an Inzaghi shot had been only half-cleared.

A few minutes later, Totti headed a Demetrio Albertini free-kick on to the bar. Yet just when it appeared that Turkey were about to get overrun, up popped the smallest player on the pitch, Okan Buruk, to

SIDELINES

Italy pay tribute to the dead of Heysel

ALL 22 members of the Italian squad, led by Paolo Maldini and Antonio Conte, paid tribute to the 39 Juventus fans who died in the 1985 Heysel disaster. The stadium, now renamed the King Baudouin stadium, was the venue for Italy's group match against Belgium.

TURKISH midfielder Tugay Kerimoglu was banished from the tournament by coach Mustafa Denizli after reacting angrily to being substituted in the win over Belgium.

Tugay threw a water bottle towards Denizli, and though he later apologised, the coach decided to take a tough line.

Denizli said: "Players who don't respect the coach have no place in my team."

VETERAN Belgian skipper Lorenzo Staelens announced his international retirement after his side's early exit from Euro 2000 following the 2-0 defeat by Turkey.

The 36-year-old Anderlecht central defender called it a day after a 10-year tenure with *Les Diables Rouges* which brought him 71 caps and eight goals. He said: "I'll carry on at club level but it's time to make way for a younger man in the international team."

SWEDISH defender Tomas Gustafsson was ruled out of action for at least six months after injuring a knee in the 2-1 defeat by Italy.

UNRULY Turkish fans who threw plastic bottles and other debris on to the pitch during the defeat by Italy cost the Turkish FA a £4,200 fine from UEFA...and another £1,200 for letting off flares during the win over Belgium.

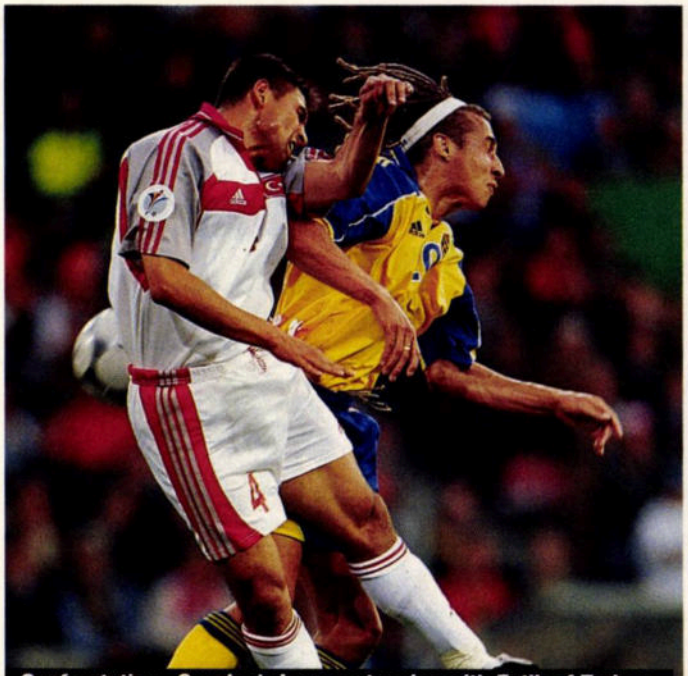
make the most of momentary confusion in the Italian penalty area. He cheekily headed home a Sergen Yalcin free-kick for a 61st-minute equaliser.

That might have been that but for Dallas, who awarded Italy a penalty after Inzaghi had run into the area only to be knocked over by Turkish captain Ogun Temizkanoglu. At the time and on subsequent replays, it looked like a fair shoulder charge and you could sympathise with Ogun, who later praised Inzaghi for being "a world-class diver".

Inzaghi converted the penalty, showing admirable coolness against a barrage of cans, plastic bottles, cigarette lighters and whistling from the Turkish fans.

Del Piero, brought on as a substitute for Fiore, hit a post twice while Angelo Di Livio, on for Totti, scored an injury-time third that was overruled for a hairline offside decision.

Paddy Agnew



Confrontation...Sweden's Larsson tangles with Fatih of Turkey

14/06/00

ITALY 2 BELGIUM 0

Zoff gets it right once more

ITALY booked their place in the quarter-finals with a comfortable victory over Belgium in Brussels. Goals from Francesco Totti and Stefano Fiore confirmed suspicions that this Italy team were growing in confidence with every game.

They may not be one of the great Italy sides, but when faced with mediocre opposition, their class comes to the fore.

Questions had been raised about coach Dino Zoff's use of Totti in a striking role alongside Filippo Inzaghi because Totti had been very effective in a midfield playmaking role for Roma all season, and Alessandro Del Piero had been omitted from the starters to accommodate him in attack. The more physical Fiore was again preferred as playmaker.

But Totti answered the doubters after only six minutes. Demetrio Albertini sent in a looping free-kick from the right, and the Roma man met the ball with a brave, stooping header which sailed past Filip De Wilde.

The Italians had gone close even earlier, with Paolo Maldini and Inzaghi forcing reflex saves from De Wilde in the space of a few seconds.

Three minutes later the Belgians hit back when Bart Goor fired a fierce long-range shot which Francesco Toldo tipped on to the bar.

The co-hosts dominated for much of the half but could not create clear scoring chances. They were winning a lot of possession in central midfield, with Marc Wilmots and Yves Vanderhaeghe more than matching their counterparts, Albertini and Antonio Conte, while Gert Verheyen was effective on the right.

But the fact that Belgium failed to find a way through was a tribute to Italy's effectiveness in defending their lead. Toldo led by example, saving well in the 64th minute, when he tipped a free-kick from Luc Nilis round a post.

Two minutes later, the Italians killed off the game when Fiore played a one-two with Inzaghi on the edge of the area before curling a wonderful shot past De Wilde.

Substitute Marco Delvecchio had a goal ruled out for pushing his marker. But Italy were happy to settle for a two-goal margin. Zoff was again vindicated for his team selection, and the *Azzurri* were into the last eight.

Gavin Hamilton

15/06/00

SWEDEN 0 TURKEY 0

Hakan's miss lets Sweden escape

EINDHOVEN was the setting for what proved to be by far the worst match of the opening round, with rarely a hint of a goal.

And ironically the best chance of one, in injury time, was missed by none other than Hakan Sukur, rightly renowned as Turkey's top marksman.

Hakan, who is bound for a second spell in Italian soccer next season, went into Euro 2000 with a record of 26 goals in 52 internationals. But he missed by yards, putting the ball both high and wide, when Arif Erdem's astute cross gave him a free header.

A draw was, perhaps, more than Turkey deserved but was still a reason for celebration, being the first point they had earned in their five European Championship finals matches to date.

Sweden were the better side, not that that says much for their efforts. At least they managed five shots on target – three more than Turkey's total – only to find goalkeeper Rustu Recber on form.

Perhaps Sweden's best chance, however, was denied them by referee Dick Jol, who turned down claims for a penalty after Suat Kaya's tackle had brought down Freddie Ljungberg just before half-time.

Turkey coach Mustafa Denizli gambled by giving midfielder Muzzy Izzet of Leicester his first cap, but he looked out of his depth and after sustaining an ankle injury was taken off after 59 minutes.

His replacement, Sergen Yalcin, made much more of an impression without being able to prise open a dour Swedish back line, except for one fierce drive from long range that goalkeeper Magnus Hedman did well to reach. He could not hold the ball, but was let off when Okan Buruk, who was first to the rebound, lifted it over the bar.

The game had been poor, but the result of the Great Bore of Eindhoven meant that both participants still had an outside chance of going through to the quarter-finals.

Dave Fullmer

19/06/00

TURKEY 2 BELGIUM 0

Turkey look lively to seal qualification

GALATASARAY'S success in the UEFA Cup had led many to suggest that Turkey could be the surprise package of Euro 2000. In their first two matches, they had done little to suggest that they would fulfil this role, yet everything changed in Brussels. Two goals from Hakan Sukur bounced hosts Belgium out of the tournament and catapaulted Turkey into the last eight.

Turkey coach Mustafa Denizli ignored the growing media criticism and restored midfielder Abdullah Ercan to his starting line-up. Belgium coach Robert Waseige started with Luc Nilis in place of Branko Strupar.

Nilis was behind many of Belgium's early moves as the hosts pressurised Turkey from the start. They thought they had taken the lead on 24 minutes, but Emile Mpenza was ruled offside when tapping in the rebound after Bart Goor's shot had been pushed away by Rustu Recber.

Three minutes later Hakan Sukur was judged to be onside when played through by Arif Erdem, but

Filip De Wilde saved the low shot with his feet.

The Turks continued to come back into contention, and De Wilde's legs were again needed, this time to save from Arif, who had burst through.

Turkey snatched the lead in first-half injury time with the softest of goals. Hakan Sukur ran on to a long, high clearance from Suat Kaya. The ball bounced once in the area, and Hakan outjumped De Wilde to head into an empty net.

The Belgians hit the Turkish area with a succession of crosses, but Rustu punched cleanly where De Wilde had flapped. Then the Turkish keeper saved brilliantly to push away Emile Mpenza's powerful header.

Strupar replaced Gert Verheyen and Belgium played with three strikers for the final 27 minutes. But Turkey continued to soak up whatever the Belgians threw at them and then took advantage of the extra space in midfield to go two up.

A neat interchange of passes sent Suat clear on the right and he crossed for Hakan Sukur to tap in from six yards.

The Turks found more and more space to hit on the break. Arif shot into the side netting and was then sent crashing by De Wilde, who had raced out of his area and launched a horrible aerial foul which resulted in a red card. A wretched end to a miserable night for the hosts.

Gavin Hamilton

19/06/00

ITALY 2 SWEDEN 1

Just no stopping Del Piero

EVEN though this was a nothing game for the Italians, who already had won the group, the *Azzurri* underlined the seriousness of their title challenge by cruising past the hapless Swedes.

With more serious business still to come, coach Dino Zoff rested eight of his normal first-choice side. Of the players brought in, inevitably none attracted more attention than Alessandro Del Piero, the man at the centre of the nationwide controversy as to whether he or Francesco Totti should lead the attack.

Del Piero seized his chance in the most emphatic of manners by winning the game with an 88th-minute 'Roy of the Rovers' effort that only added fuel to the already burning debate.

In theory, the Swedes still had a remote chance of qualifying. Accordingly, they started in style, creating chances for Freddie Ljungberg, who lost his footing as he rounded Francesco Toldo, then for Magnus Svensson, who also got clean through only to be denied by the Italy keeper.

Even during this opening period, there were clear indications of what was to come when the second-choice attack of Vincenzo Montella and Del Piero combined with awesome facility on the counter to set up a chance for the former which was well saved by Magnus Hedman.

Just before half-time, Italy offered the definitive reply to a first period of Swedish huff and puff by scoring the opening goal through the simplest of headers from midfielder Luigi Di Biagio, left unmarked to put away a perfectly flighted Del Piero corner.

With the second half proving as fruitless as the first, Sweden sent on Kennet Andersson, left out of the starting line-up because of injury. His power in the air soon caused problems, and he forced a serious error from Luigi Di Biagio. Andersson robbed him and sent Henrik Larsson away for a 77th-minute equaliser.

The Swedes then huffed and puffed a bit more but the evening's definitive moment belonged to Del Piero, who was sent away by Montella, made a 30-yard run, and struck a majestic left-footed winner from the edge of the box. The Italian bandwagon was gathering pace.

Paddy Agnew

RESULTS

JUNE 10 – BRUSSELS

Belgium 2 (Goor 43, E Mpenza 46)
Sweden 1 (Mjallby 53)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 46,700. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
Belgium (4-4-2): De Wilde - Deflandre, Valgaeren, Staelens, Leonard (Van Kerckhoven 72) - Verheyen (Peeters 88), Vanderhaeghe, Wilmots, Goor - Strupar (Nilis 69), E Mpenza.
Booked: Verheyen, Nilis, Van Kerckhoven.
Sweden (4-4-2): Hedman - Nilsson (Lucic 46), Bjorklund, P Andersson, Mellberg - Alexandersson, Mjallby, D Andersson (Osmanovski 70), Ljungberg - K Andersson, Pettersson (Larsson 50).
Sent off: P Andersson (81min; 2 bookings).

JUNE 11 – ARNHEM

Turkey 1 (Okan 61)
Italy 2 (Conte 52, Inzaghi pen 70)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Dallas (Sco)
Turkey (3-6-1): Rustu - Alpay, Ogun, Fatih - Umit (Tugay 76), Sergen (Arif 81), Tayfun, Tayfur, Okan (Ergun 89), Abdullah - Hakan Sukur.
Booked: none.
Italy (3-4-1-2): Toldo - Nesta, Cannavaro, Maldini - Zambrotta, Albertini, Conte, Pessotto (Iuliano 62) - Fiore (Del Piero 75) - Totti (Di Livio 83), Inzaghi.
Booked: none.

JUNE 14 – BRUSSELS

Italy 2 (Totti 6, Fiore 66)
Belgium 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 44,500. **Ref:** Garcia Aranda (Spa)
Italy (3-5-2): Toldo - Cannavaro, Nesta, Iuliano - Zambrotta, Conte, Albertini, Fiore (Ambrosini 83), Maldini - Inzaghi (Delvecchio 78), Totti (Del Piero 64).
Booked: Conte, Zambrotta.
Belgium (4-4-2): De Wilde - Deflandre, Valgaeren, Staelens, Van Kerckhoven (Hendrikx 44) - Verheyen (M Mpenza 68), Wilmots, Vanderhaeghe, Goor - Strupar (Nilis 58), E Mpenza.
Booked: Wilmots.

JUNE 15 – EINDHOVEN

Sweden 0
Turkey 0
Att: 27,000. **Ref:** Jol (Hol)
Sweden (4-4-2): Hedman - Lucic, Mellberg, Bjorklund, Sundgren - Mild, Mjallby, Ljungberg, Alexandersson (A Andersson 63) - K Andersson (Pettersson 46), Larsson (Svensson 78).
Booked: Mjallby.
Turkey (3-5-2): Rustu - Fatih, Ogun (Tugay 59), Alpay - Umit (Tayfun 45), Izzet (Sergen 59), Suat, Okan, Hakan Unsal - Arif, Hakan Sukur.
Booked: Suat.

JUNE 19 – BRUSSELS

Turkey 2 (Hakan Sukur 45, 70)
Belgium 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 43,000. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)/Benko (Aut; 41min)
Turkey (3-5-2): Rustu - Fatih, Ogun, Alpay - Tayfun, Okan (Ergun 77), Tugay (Tayfur 37), Suat, Abdullah - Hakan Sukur, Arif (Osman 87).
Booked: Tayfun, Osman.
Belgium (4-4-2): De Wilde - Deflandre*, Staelens, Valgaeren, Van Kerckhoven - Verheyen (Strupar 63), Vanderhaeghe, Wilmots, Goor (Hendrikx 59) - Nilis (De Bilde 77), E Mpenza.
Booked: Vanderhaeghe, E Mpenza.
Sent off: De Wilde (84min).
**In goal from 84min.*

JUNE 19 – EINDHOVEN

Italy 2 (Di Biagio 39, Del Piero 88)
Sweden 1 (Larsson 77)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 29,500. **Ref:** Melo Pereira (Por)
Italy (3-5-2): Toldo - Ferrara, Negro, Iuliano (Cannavaro 46) - Pessotto, Di Livio (Fiore 64), Di Biagio, Ambrosini, Maldini (Nesta 42) - Montella, Del Piero.
Booked: none.
Sweden (4-4-2): Hedman - Mellberg, P Andersson, Bjorklund, Gustafsson (K Andersson 75) - Mild, Mjallby (D Andersson 56), Ljungberg, Svensson (Alexandersson 52) - Larsson, Osmanovski.
Booked: none.

GROUP B – FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	3	3	0	0	6	2	9
Turkey	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Belgium	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Sweden	3	0	1	2	2	4	1

Late, late goals send Spanish through

Norway lose out after Camacho's team mount an amazing recovery

Spain reign...Alfonso (No 11) and team-mates celebrate his late winner against Yugoslavia

TWO injury-time goals against Yugoslavia sent Spain into the quarter-finals at Norway's expense as Group C ended in dramatic fashion. With the Yugoslavs leading Spain 3-2 as their game in Bruges entered the 91st minute, Norway thought they had done enough to finish second, despite managing only a goalless draw with Slovenia in Arnhem.

But then Spain mounted their amazing recovery as the seconds ticked away. The final whistle had blown in the group's other game, leaving the Norwegians waiting for news from Bruges.

Norway coach Nils Johan Semb spoke of the moment he realised the game was up. "I was on the pitch and I saw a Spanish journalist in the press tribune was celebrating, and I understood then it was over for us," he said. "The players thought they were in the quarter-finals and in a few minutes they were out. It's a bad night."

For Spain, it meant they unexpectedly topped the group. After their opening-game defeat by Norway in Rotterdam, few would have predicted such an outcome. A goalkeeping blunder by Jose Molina gave Steffen Iversen the only goal and led to some critical comments in the Spanish press. "A second division goalkeeper, a second division Spain," ran one headline, while *Marca* could only reflect: "What a disappointment."

Spanish hopes had been lifted by the performances of their club sides in the Champions League, but once again, it seemed, club success could not be translated to the international stage. A win over a spirited Slovenia side followed, but Spain still needed to beat Yugoslavia in their final match to be sure of a place in the quarter-finals.

After a terrible start, Yugoslavia's campaign quickly gained momentum. A remarkable second-half fightback against Slovenia, when they overturned a three-goal deficit in six minutes, earned Vujadin Boskov's side a point from their opening game. Norway were next up and were beaten 1-0, but not before Semb had accused the Yugoslavs of "sabotage".

After taking an early lead, Yugoslavia had resorted to all manner of time-wasting tactics to preserve their slender advantage. Not big and not clever, but effective nonetheless.

Yugoslavia's disciplinary record was quite appalling. They had a player sent off in all three group games, making them less the 'Brazilians of Europe' and more the 'Argentines of Europe'. The frustrating thing about the Yugoslavs' game was that they played some stylish, free-flowing football when they wanted to.

The same could not be said of Norway, whose tactics have become all too familiar. Fortunately for football's style police, Norway's 'up-and-at-'em' approach has its limitations.

In the battle to win friends and influence people, it's a pity Norway do not follow the example of Slovenia, the tournament's rank outsiders, who compensated for their lack of quality and experience by playing a well-organised, attacking game and, led by the inspirational Zlatko Zahovic, scoring more goals than Norway, Denmark, Germany, Belgium, Sweden, the Czech Republic and Turkey.

'Yugoslavia's disciplinary record was quite appalling. They had a player sent off in all three group games'

Gavin Hamilton

Comeback kings...Milosevic pulls Yugoslavia level after they had trailed Slovenia 3-0

On the up...Tore Andre Flo rises above the Spanish defence

13/06/00

SPAIN 0 NORWAY 1

Spain punished by keeper's blunder

STEFFEN IVERSEN headed finals newcomers Norway to victory against Spain in Rotterdam.

He cashed in on a terrible misjudgment by goalkeeper Jose Molina and caused a major embarrassment to Spain, who were one of the most highly-rated of the finalists.

In a goalless first half Spain had escaped punishment only because Ole Gunnar Solskjaer twice wasted chances. He hit the bar after 20 minutes and, almost on half-time, twisted on a right-wing cross from Vegard Heggem but put in a soft shot, easily saved by Molina.

Solskjaer's finishing errors were, unfortunately, typical of the poorest football seen so far at the finals. Both teams appeared unco-ordinated and gave the ball away far too often.

Spain, disappointingly, did not look as physically sharp for their opening game as some of the other major nations, such as France, Italy and Holland.

They did manage more shots on goal than Norway, thanks to an improvement towards the end of the first half. Michel Salgado and Raul (twice) had Thomas Myhre diving and stretching to save. Raul had the ball in the net in the 43rd minute but the whistle had gone for offside.

The decisive moment came in the 66th minute when Molina needlessly charged out to meet Dan Eggen's long free-kick but was beaten to it by Iversen, whose header looped gently into the net.

Spain fought back and Myhre became the first keeper at the finals penalised under the new six-second law. Norway, however, cleared both the follow-up shot from Fernando Hierro at the free-kick and the subsequent corner.

Keir Radnedge

13/06/00

YUGOSLAVIA 3 SLOVENIA 3

Slovenia shine, then slip

YUGOSLAVIA's arrogance and complacency so nearly got the better of them against their Balkan neighbours.

Slovenia, viewed as little more than tournament upstarts despite the elimination of much-fancied Ukraine in the play-offs, doubtless would have produced the first upset had they performed throughout with the confidence and spontaneity of the first hour, when they showed that they had every right to be on the same pitch.

The goals that Vujadin Boskov's Yugoslavs assumed would come as formalities went instead to their opponents. The Slavs staged their recovery on a balmy evening in Charleroi without central defender Sinisa Mihajlovic, who was sent off after receiving two yellow cards in the space of five minutes. He was booked first for dissent, and was then dismissed for provoking Saso Udovic, whose theatrical slip certainly convinced Portuguese referee Vitor Manuel Melo Pereira of malicious intent.

Whatever the severity of the offence, it was certainly a bad night for Mihajlovic, whose appalling mistake three minutes earlier had been responsible for Slovenia's third goal. Zlatko Zahovic pounced on the unexpected gift of a misplaced square pass to drive his shot past the advancing Ivica Kralj.

Zahovic had been equally adept in the air. With a deft flick of his brow, he met Amir Karic's cross to give Slovenia a 23rd-minute lead, which was doubled in the 52nd minute with another header. Zahovic turned provider this time with the free-kick which was converted by Miran Pavlin.

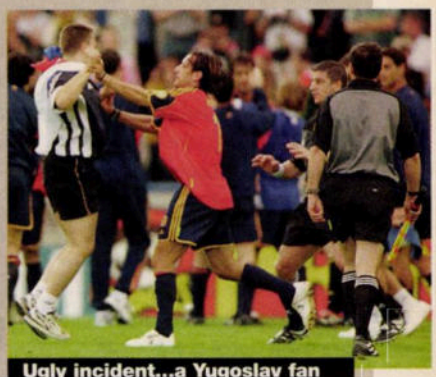
Savo Milosevic had been on the field for only 15 minutes as a substitute when he scored from a yard out after Miroslav Djukic's lob struck the woodwork. The 10 men were back in serious contention three minutes later when Predrag Mijatovic's pass invited the excellent Ljubinko Drulovic to drive in the second goal.

Slovenia were hanging on now, having lost all semblance of shape at the back. The sense of urgency inspired by Drulovic was characterised in the midfielder's

SIDELINES

YUGOSLAVIA were fined £45,000 by UEFA following incidents involving fans at the dramatic final group game against Spain.

One ran on to the pitch and tried to attack French referee Gilles Veissiere, while another threw a coin which hit the official above one eye.



Ugly incident...a Yugoslav fan threatens referee Veissiere

THERE was more bad news for Yugoslavia – one of their FA officials was expelled after being arrested for selling black market tickets before the game with Norway in Liege. He was caught with 150 match tickets and £2,400 in Belgian francs.

JOSE MOLINA, whose mad rush from his goal allowed Steffen Iversen to head Norway's winner against Spain, has at least helped out a good cause. The gloves with which the unfortunate keeper made no contact with the ball were auctioned by a Spanish TV company for charity and raised £340.

YUGOSLAVIA were involved in a security alert after five men armed with guns and wearing masks were spotted near their hotel. But the alleged gunmen turned out to be engaged in a game of paintball in the nearby forest.

DRAGAN STOJKOVIC, the Yugoslav captain, now playing for Grampus Eight in Japan, confirmed during Euro 2000 that he will retire at the end of the J.League season in December.

tantalising run to the right byline, followed by an accurate pull-back which left Milosevic with another simple task.

The three Yugoslav goals had come in the space of six remarkable minutes, but either side could have gone on to win.

Nicholas Harling

18/06/00

SLOVENIA 1 SPAIN 2

A breath of life from Camacho's men

SPAIN breathed life into their stuttering campaign when goals from Raul and Joseba Etxeberria enabled them to beat Slovenia.

In between, Zlatko Zahovic – one of the heroes of the tournament – had shot Slovenia level.

Raul marked his 'arrival' in the tournament after four minutes. A flowing move across the face of the Slovenian penalty box by Pep Guardiola and Michel Salgado was climaxed by Raul's turn and shot – all in one smooth move – beyond Mladen Dabanovic's right hand.

More goals were threatened. Alfonso sliced a shot wide when put clear by Juan Carlos Valeron, and then Guardiola headed a lob from Agustin Aranzabal over the bar.

Slovenia, who had Miran Pavlin and Darko Milanic booked in the opening half-hour, created one opening when Djoni Novak's cross found Mladen Rudonja unmarked on the left. He took too long setting up the shot, however, and Salgado deflected the ball for a corner.

Raul might have increased Spain's lead just before and just after the interval, when first he was narrowly wide with a shot after Alfonso had held up the ball, then was inches out with a header from Aranzabal's chip after Guardiola's crossfield pass had deceived the Slovenians.

Spain coach Jose Antonio Camacho was much happier with the movement and cohesion of his team, though frustrated that they had been unable to turn that advantage into goals. They paid the penalty, too, in the 59th minute, when Slovenia equalised on the counter. Rudonja raced down the left, the central defenders lumbered back far too slowly, and Zahovic jabbed in a leg ahead of Milan Osterc to prod the ball past Santiago Canizares.

Spain immediately regained the lead. Gaizka Mendieta crowned a superb crossfield dash with an angled pass behind the defence and Etxeberria rammed his shot past Dabanovic.

Keir Radnedge

Star man...Zlatko Zahovic enhanced his reputation at Euro 2000

18/06/00

NORWAY 0 YUGOSLAVIA 1

'Sabotage,' cries unhappy Semb

NORWAY coach Nils Johan Semb complained bitterly about Yugoslav "sabotage" after his team's defeat in Liege. "The Yugoslavs refereed the match," he said. "This is the first time I have witnessed such time-wasting tactics, and it cannot have been good to watch, either."

An early goal from Savo Milosevic was enough to give Yugoslavia victory, although their second-half performance was characterised by indiscipline and bad sportsmanship. Mateja Kezman was sent off only a minute after going on as a substitute late in the game, as his side clung to their early lead. Referee Hugh Dallas's decision was harsh on the youngster, but he had to do something to quell the tide of bad will from the Yugoslavs.

Not that Norway contributed much to the spectacle. Lone striker Tore Andre Flo was the main target for their attacks, with Steffen Iversen and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer looking to cash in on Flo's aerial power.

What proved to be the winning goal came after only eight minutes when Milosevic, starting the game after scoring twice as a substitute against Slovenia, got the faintest of connections to a free-kick whipped in by Ljubinko Drulovic.

The Yugoslavs had begun well, with captain Dragan Stojkovic running at the heart of the Norwegian defence, and Vladimir Jugovic lashing a shot over the bar from outside the area.

Norway stuck to their direct style and did their most effective work down the right. Flo brought an excellent one-handed save from Ivica Kralj, and Dallas waved away protests when Solskjaer appeared to be held back while trying to connect with a looping cross from the right.

The Yugoslavs were more composed on the ball, with Drulovic, Jugovic and Stojkovic moving swiftly through midfield. They soaked up pressure and hit on the break, with Stojkovic going close with a lob after clever work by Drulovic.

Iversen was Norway's main aerial threat, but Eirik Bakke diverted his goal-bound header over the bar. In the 76th minute Bakke was replaced after being booked for a challenge on Jugovic, who also was cautioned as the game threatened to turn nasty.

Yugoslavia mounted the occasional attack but seemed more concerned with protecting their lead through foul means rather than fair. Kezman was sent off for a two-footed tackle on Erik Mykland, and John Carew should have equalised late on but shot wide when clean through.

Gavin Hamilton

21/06/00

YUGOSLAVIA 3 SPAIN 4

Spain squeeze victory at the last gasp

THE European Championships have produced some memorable games. But nothing quite like this.

Spain, a goal down in injury time, looked to be heading out of the competition. Another tournament, another disappointing performance from a team who had promised much, but delivered little.

Then, just before the lights were turned out on Spain's tournament, they came roaring back to life, scoring twice in a matter of minutes to pull off one of the most remarkable comebacks seen in international football.

Alfonso's winning goal, with virtually the last kick, took Spain into the quarter-finals at the expense of Norway, whose goalless draw with Slovenia sent them out of the competition. Yugoslavia, who thought they had thrown it all away, were handed a lifeline into the last eight.

There had been no reason to suspect such drama following the events of the first half. Yugoslavia had taken the lead through their top scorer, Savo Milosevic, who arrived in the penalty area between two defenders and rose unmarked to head Ljubinko Drulovic's cross past Santiago Canizares.

Up until then, Spain had had the edge in midfield, but failed to convert their possession into chances. However, six minutes before half-time, Alfonso pulled them level from close range after good work by Raul on the edge of the area.

The teams exchanged goals early in the second half. First, Dejan Govedarica beat Canizares, then Pedro Munitis, a half-time substitute for Michel Salgado, curled a shot from 20 yards past Ivica Kralj to equalise.

When Slavisa Jokanovic was sent

off in the 63rd minute for a second bookable offence – the third Yugoslav to be expelled in as many games – the tide appeared to be turning in Spain's favour. But Yugoslavia took the lead for a third time when Slobodan Komljenovic stabbed home from close range after 75 minutes as the defence failed to clear a free-kick.

At times like this in the past, Spanish sides had cracked under the pressure. But to the credit of coach Jose Camacho, his team mounted a spirited challenge, besieging the Yugoslav goal for the remainder of the match. Pep Guardiola and Alfonso both went close but it looked as if Yugoslavia would hold out. Spanish hopes were revived, however, when the fourth official's board declared seven minutes of injury time.

The pressure finally told when Munitis won a penalty, which was converted by Gaizka Mendieta. Then, in the sixth minute of overtime, Alfonso fired a low shot through a crowded penalty area for the winner.

A remarkable game.

Gavin Hamilton

21/06/00

SLOVENIA 0 NORWAY 0

Dull, dull, dull in the Dome

NORWAY's elimination was indeed cruel, but the Scandinavians deserved little more after finishing with a goals tally of 1-1 from their three group games.

Although they had begun brightly by beating Spain, their subsequent performances were tedious, doing nothing to raise the tournament's entertainment value. Norwegian supporters nevertheless flocked out of the Arnhem Gelredome believing that their team had qualified for the quarter-finals. The latest bulletin from Bruges had been promising. Spain were losing 3-2, but the concession of two goals by the Slavs in added time left the Norwegians stunned beyond belief.

They were out and so, too, were Slovenia, whose exit did at least raise fewer questions back home in the mountains among a population of little more than two million.

Slovenia had not been expected to progress, and by holding the Slavs and Scandinavians either side of a single-goal loss to Spain Srecko Katanec's squad had improved on woeful predictions. More will be expected next time.

Zlatko Zahovic had made something of a name for himself, so Norway put Staale Solbakken on him. The outcome was that the main threat came this time from Ermin Siljak, the Servette striker, who went close with a shot and a header before Norway roused themselves, helped perhaps by the fact that their midfield was populated by players whose reputations have been made in attack.

If any Norwegian individual deserved better than an early flight home for not being a slave to the general hit and hope policy, it was Erik Mykland.

The straggly-haired midfielder, with the looks of a bohemian singing for his supper, was forced out too wide when he embarked on a fanciful run into the heart of the Slovenian defence. That was typical of Mykland: darting play which was far superior to the weary contributions of the two chief strikers, Tore Andre Flo and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Nicholas Harling

RESULTS

JUNE 13 – ROTTERDAM

Spain 0
Norway 1 (Iversen 66)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 41,000. **Ref:** El Ghandour (Egy)
Spain (4-4-2): Molina - Michel Salgado, Hierro, Paco, Aranzabal - Etxeberria (Alfonso 72), Guardiola, Valeron (Ivan Helguera 80), Fran (Mendieta 72) - Urzaiz, Raul.
Booked: Etxeberria, Michel Salgado.
Norway (4-5-1): Myhre - Heggem, Berg (Eggen 59), Bragstad, Bergdolmo - Iversen (Riseth 90), E Bakke, Skammelsrud, Mykland, Solskjaer - Flo (Carew 70).
Booked: Bergdolmo.

JUNE 13 – CHARLEROI

Yugoslavia 3 (Milosevic 67, 73, Drulovic 70)
Slovenia 3 (Zahovic 23, 57, Pavlin 52)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 18,500. **Ref:** Melo Pereira (Por)
Yugoslavia (4-4-2): Kralj - Dudic, Djukic, Mihajlovic, Nadj - D Stankovic (Stojkovic 36), Jokanovic, Jugovic, Drulovic - Kovacevic (Milosevic 52), Mijatovic (Kezman 82).
Sent off: Mihajlovic (60min; 2 bookings).
Slovenia (3-4-2-1): Dabanovic - Milanic, Galic, Milinovic - Novak, Ceh, Pavlin (Pavlovic 74), Karic (Osterc 78) - Zahovic, Rudonja - Udovic (Acimovic 64).
Booked: Milanic.

JUNE 18 – AMSTERDAM

Slovenia 1 (Zahovic 59)
Spain 2 (Raul 4, Etxeberria 60)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 42,500. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
Slovenia (3-4-2-1): Dabanovic - Milanic (Knavs 68), Galic, Milinovic - Novak, Ceh, Pavlin (Acimovic 82), Karic - Zahovic, Rudonja - Udovic (Osterc 46).
Booked: Pavlin, Milanic, Novak, Karic.
Spain (4-4-2): Canizares - Michel Salgado, Hierro, Abelardo, Aranzabal - Etxeberria, Valeron (Engonga 89), Guardiola (Ivan Helguera 81), Mendieta - Raul, Alfonso (Urzaiz 71).
Booked: Aranzabal, Ivan Helguera.

JUNE 18 – LIEGE

Norway 0
Yugoslavia 1 (Milosevic 8)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 27,250. **Ref:** Dallas (Sco)
Norway (4-5-1): Myhre - Heggem (Bjornebye 35), Eggen, Bragstad, Bergdolmo - Iversen (Carew 71), E Bakke (Strand 76), Skammelsrud, Mykland, Solskjaer - Flo.
Booked: Mykland, E Bakke.
Yugoslavia (4-4-2): Kralj - Komljenovic, Saveljic, Djukic, Djorovic - Stojkovic (Nadj 84), Jokanovic (Govedarica 89), Jugovic, Drulovic - Mijatovic (Kezman 87), Milosevic.
Booked: Jokanovic, Jugovic, Drulovic, Nadj.
Sent off: Kezman (88min).

JUNE 21 – BRUGES

Yugoslavia 3 (Milosevic 31, Govedarica 51, Komljenovic 75)
Spain 4 (Alfonso 39, 90, Munitis 52, Mendieta pen 90)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 24,000. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Yugoslavia (4-4-2): Kralj - Komljenovic, Djukic, Mihajlovic, Djorovic (J Stankovic 13) - Stojkovic (Saveljic 69), Jokanovic, Jugovic (Govedarica 46), Drulovic - Milosevic, Mijatovic.
Booked: Komljenovic, J Stankovic, Stojkovic, Saveljic.
Sent off: Jokanovic (63min; 2 bookings).
Spain (4-4-2): Canizares - Michel Salgado (Munitis 46), Abelardo, Paco (Urzaiz 65), Sergi - Mendieta, Guardiola, Ivan Helguera, Fran (Etxeberria 23) - Raul, Alfonso.
Booked: Sergi.

JUNE 21 – ARNHEM

Slovenia 0
Norway 0
Att: 22,500. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)
Slovenia (3-4-1-2): Dabanovic - Milinovic, Galic (Acimovic 83), Knavs - Novak, Ceh, Pavlin, Karic - Zahovic - Siljak (Osterc 86), Rudonja.
Booked: Pavlin.
Norway (4-5-1): Myhre - Bergdolmo, Eggen, Bragstad, Bjornebye - Carew (E Bakke 61; Strand 82), Iversen, Solbakken, Mykland, Solskjaer - Flo.
Booked: Mykland, Solskjaer.

GROUP C – FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
Yugoslavia*	3	1	1	1	7	7	4
Norway	3	1	1	1	1	1	4
Slovenia	3	0	2	1	4	5	2

**Yugoslavia qualified because they won their group game against Norway*

Big two ease into last eight

Holland and France conquer despite resistance from the Czechs

THE 'group of granite' – so called because it comprised the co-hosts, world champions, 1992 champions and 1996 runners-up – proved the easiest to call, with the Czech Republic and Denmark no match for Holland and France.

The tournament's joint favourites confirmed their credentials by reaching the quarter-finals by winning their opening two matches. The French could afford to field a virtual B team for their meeting with the Dutch in Amsterdam, where the hosts were narrow winners of an open encounter.

Holland steadied themselves after a shaky start and topped the group. The orange-clad crowds in Rotterdam and Amsterdam had arrived with great expectations, but against the Czechs in Amsterdam they had to wait for a suspect penalty late in the game before celebrating. The Danes were an easier proposition, and their defeat helped to jumpstart the Oranje bandwagon.

Internal conflicts in the Dutch camp did not surface, but instead there were the critical salvos fired by Johan Cruyff from the TV studio. Cruyff called on key players such as Edgar Davids and Dennis Bergkamp to provide more inspiration, and the players reacted furiously, with Bergkamp storming: "At least Rijkaard was a European champion."

Against France B in the final game, Holland secured the win that kept them on home soil for the quarter-finals.

The French also had their problems with the press, despite their strong performances on the pitch. Fifteen of the 22-man squad refused to give interviews during the tournament, leading to the French press boycotting coach Roger Lemerre's press conference in protest. In turn, Lemerre appeared only at mandatory press calls. The poor relations between Lemerre and the sports daily *L'Equipe* lie at the heart of the problem. Bad blood still exists from the 1998 World Cup when his predecessor, Aime Jacquet, used his press conference after the Final to launch a scathing attack on the paper.

'The Czech Republic surely would have qualified for the quarter-finals if they had been in a weaker group'

Brightening up...Dutch fans give full support

Up in the air...Cocu and Desailly take off in the France v Holland game

On the pitch, France displayed confidence rather than arrogance, with Thierry Henry providing the cutting edge in attack that was so lacking two years ago. The strength in depth of the French squad was demonstrated by the performances of reserves Johan Micoud and Christophe Dugarry against Holland.

Henry was on target against Denmark and the Czech Republic, who surely would have qualified from a weaker group. Instead, they were the first team to leave the tournament. They were joined a few hours later by the Danes, who lacked invention in midfield and any real threat in attack.

It was a disappointing end to Bo Johansson's period in charge – Denmark left pointless and goalless – and Morten Olsen and Michael Laudrup now have the task of injecting new life into the national side.

Gavin Hamilton

11/06/00

FRANCE 3 DENMARK 0

Danes have no answer to French pace

FRANCE served notice of their intention to become only the second nation to hold both world and European titles at the same time by sweeping aside Denmark with an impressive performance in Bruges. Zinedine Zidane was magnificent, controlling midfield and allowing the pace of Nicolas Anelka and Thierry Henry to rip into the Danish defence.

The French started with eight of the players who had lined up in the World Cup Final two years ago. The changes were Laurent Blanc, Henry and Anelka.

All three made their mark in Bruges. Blanc scored France's opening goal, Henry claimed the second and set up the third, and Anelka's pace was a constant threat.

Denmark's best chance came as early as the second minute, when Jon Dahl Tomasson, through on goal, was denied by Fabien Barthez, who saved with his feet.

The Danes attempted to contain the French in midfield, with their defence pushed up, often right to the halfway line. On paper it seemed the most sensible tactic; in practice it invited Anelka and Henry, prompted by Zidane, to use their pace to spring the offside trap.

The first goal came as a direct result of Anelka's speed on the turn. Zidane put him through one on one with Peter Schmeichel, who did well to smother at Anelka's feet, but the ball popped loose and Blanc passed it into an empty net. Anelka already had gone close, taking the ball around Schmeichel, but shooting into the side netting. A run by Henry from the halfway line past two defenders ended in a similar fashion.

After the break, Henry did well to control a long crossfield pass with his chest, but could only prod wide, and Anelka should have done better with a header from Henry's cross.

Henry was taking advantage of the space created for him by Zidane, and when a clever lay-off and one-two released him over the halfway line, his pace took him away from Soren Colding to shoot past Schmeichel.

Martin Jorgensen, Thomas Gravesen and Mikkel Beck were brought on as the Danes, lacking invention in midfield, struggled to reply, but another substitute, Sylvain Wiltord, added a third goal for France. He sidefooted in a cross from the unselfish Patrick Vieira, who had been released down the right-hand channel by man of the match Henry.

Gavin Hamilton

Heads together...Petit and Deschamps sandwich Allan Nielsen

11/06/00

HOLLAND 1 CZECH REPUBLIC 0

Late penalty calms nervy Dutch

HOLLAND hardly lived up to their pre-tournament rating as favourites by scrambling a fortuitous victory in their opening game in Amsterdam. It took a controversial 89th-minute penalty from skipper Frank De Boer to soothe Dutch nerves, which had been shredded by a lively Czech side who twice struck the woodwork in a dazzling 18-minute spell early in the second half.

The decisive moment came when Marc Overmars crossed and fellow substitute Ronald De Boer appeared to have his shirt tugged by Jiri Nemec as he moved in on the ball. De Boer's fall was theatrical, but referee Pierluigi Collina had no doubts and Frank De Boer calmly slotted the penalty to Pavel Srnicek's right.

It was too much for the Czechs and during added time, Radoslav Latal, sitting on the bench having been substituted, was sent off for verbally abusing the fourth official on the touchline.

While weight of expectation undoubtedly contributed to a lacklustre Dutch display, the Czechs, who had won all their 10 games in qualifying for Euro 2000, could feel hard done by, if only for their second-half performance.

Jozef Chovanec's men won no friends in the opening 45 minutes by sticking to a rigid game plan designed to stifle Holland. It worked a treat because all the Dutch had to show for their efforts was an 18th-minute cross-shot by Dennis Bergkamp after Edgar Davids set him up.

The Czechs did not mount their first serious raid until the last 10 minutes of the first period but the ever-dangerous Pavel Nedved served a warning with a strong run and a drive that flashed just past a post. It was the shape of things to come because from the start of the second half Nedved and his colleagues adopted Plan B – all-out attack.

First Karel Poborsky slid in to meet Nedved's low cross only to steer it wide from close range, then Nedved twice brought out saves from Edwin Van der Sar. Finally, the Lazio player thumped in a perfect header that struck a post and bounced down behind Van der Sar, only to be grabbed by the goalkeeper as it was about to cross the line.

Ronald De Boer, replacing Clarence Seedorf, met a cross from Bergkamp in a rare Dutch breakaway, only to sky the ball harmlessly into the crowd, and it was not long before the Czechs were cursing the woodwork again when the towering Jan Koller rose to meet a Poborsky cross and sent his header against the bar.

A draw looked the best bet, but then came the De Boer twins' decisive intervention.

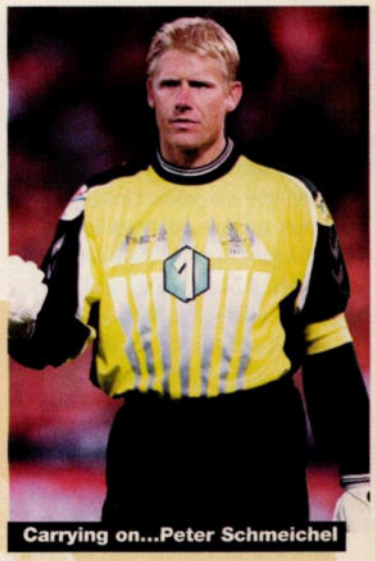
Ben Christopher

SIDELINES

PETER SCHMEICHEL vowed to continue playing international football, despite Denmark's three defeats at Euro 2000. But Schmeichel, the 36-year-old goalkeeper who won his 124th cap during competition, is not chasing Lothar Matthaus's world record of 150 games for Germany.

"I just want to carry on for as long as I can and for as long as I enjoy it," he said.

FRANCE coach Roger Lemerre took a brief break after his side's game against the Czech Republic to be with his dying father. But Maurice Lemerre, 86, died before his son could get to his bedside.



Carrying on...Peter Schmeichel

16/06/00

CZECH REPUBLIC 1 FRANCE 2

Unlucky Czechs out after two games

THE Czech Republic can rightly consider themselves the unluckiest team in the tournament. They were touted as contenders at the outset, but became the first team to be knocked out from the first round.

Defeat by the French in Bruges hurt, not least because had the Czechs been drawn in a weaker group, they would have qualified comfortably for the quarter-finals. "It was the second game in which we had all the luck against us," said coach Jozef Chovanec. "Our group was by far the most difficult and both our games so far have proved that. It's a pity that we are out of the tournament. If we had scored the first goal, we would have won."

As it was, France took an early lead after a dreadful lapse in concentration by Petr Gabriel, who started the match in place of the suspended Radoslav Latal. He did not look up when hitting a sloppy back-pass, and the ball fell to Thierry Henry, who took it into the area and coolly prodded past Pavel Srnicek.

The Czechs responded well, playing some neat football in midfield, albeit with little end product from giant striker Jan Koller. But they could have gone further behind when the masterful Zinedine Zidane played in Henry, whose shot went across Srnicek and outside a post.

For all Chovanec's talk of misfortune, the equaliser involved a hefty slice of good luck. Pavel Nedved was pushed in the back by Didier Deschamps outside the area, but fell inside it and a penalty was awarded, which Karel Poborsky drove straight down the middle.

Nedved had a chance to put the Czechs ahead shortly after the break, but Fabien Barthez saved brilliantly.

The French regained their composure and, prompted by Zidane, took the lead through Youri Djorkaeff, a half-time substitute for Manu Petit. Henry got the better of Tomas Repka, sent in a cross which went behind Christophe Dugarry, a sub for the ineffective Nicolas Anelka, and fell for Djorkaeff, who had run into the area, to beat Srnicek.

The Czechs added a second beanpole striker, Vratislav Lokvenc, on for Radek Bejbl, without making the breakthrough that would keep them in the tournament. Koller went closest, hitting the bar for the second match in succession, but the French held out to qualify for the quarter-finals.

Gavin Hamilton

16/06/00

DENMARK 0 HOLLAND 3

Easy for Holland, in the end

THREE second-half goals, from Patrick Kluivert, Ronald De Boer and Bodo Zenden, shot Holland to victory over Denmark in Rotterdam.

Kluivert fired home a low shot after goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel had gone down at Dennis Bergkamp's feet in the 57th minute. Substitute De Boer popped in No 2 from close range nine minutes later, and Zenden made it 3-0 in the 77th minute.

The co-hosts began with the knowledge that victory would guarantee them a place in the quarter-finals, with their first-round tie against world champions France still to come.

France's earlier 2-1 win over the Czechs had offered the prospect of a quick resolution to the major issues of the group. Easier said than done.

Holland coach Frank Rijkaard had committed himself to attack by introducing Marc Overmars in place of midfielder Clarence Seedorf, but the service from midfield was patchy.

This suited the Danes, who had lost their opening match to France. They concentrated their efforts in midfield yet still managed the occasional threat. Morten Bisgaard forced Edwin Van der Sar to dive left to save in the seventh minute, then Soren Colding pulled a drive wide.

In the 23rd minute Van der Sar had to be at his sharpest to pull off a scrambling double save from close-range efforts by Bisgaard and Colding.

When Holland hit back, in the 29th minute, Schmeichel could only parry Kluivert's shot but Overmars fired the loose ball wastefully wide. Then Edgar Davids dashed through from midfield and again Schmeichel smothered the effort.

Denmark went the closest yet to a goal when Thomas Gravesen loped out of midfield, exchanged passes with Jesper Gronkjaer, and lofted in a deceptively gentle shot which clipped the bar.

Denmark stepped up the pace at the start of the second half, with Bisgaard forcing another diving save from Van der Sar, then Gronkjaer fired into the side netting after Philip Cocu had lost possession in midfield.

With the pace fast and furious, Holland snatched the lead against the run of play, Kluivert scoring after a penetrative surge by Bergkamp.

Nine minutes later the Dutch led 2-0. Zenden ran on to a loose ball on the left, turned and fired in a low cross which Ronald De Boer, on as a sub for Overmars, prodded home.

Then came Zenden's goal, and Denmark's exit from Euro 2000 was confirmed 10 minutes from time when Michael Schjonberg missed a penalty.

Keir Radnedge

Getting away...Beck of Denmark evades the Czech Republic's Bejbl

21/06/00

FRANCE 2 HOLLAND 3

Les Blues lead twice and lose

AN entertaining and highly-skilled match deservedly went Holland's way, even though France led twice.

One of the scorers, Frank De Boer, thought Holland played their best thus far in Euro 2000. He said: "In the first two matches we didn't play well but won, whereas here in the first half we played well and found ourselves 2-1 down."

Coach Frank Rijkaard said: "We made things difficult for ourselves and only got a grip on the game once we had equalised. We knew we had to defend further up the pitch and play more simple football."

French boss Roger Lemerre was happy despite the defeat. He said: "It was a quality game against quality opposition in a wonderful atmosphere."

France, despite resting nine of their first-choice line-up, went ahead after only eight minutes in the

Amsterdam Arena. They forced a corner on the right and Christophe Dugarry rose ahead of Sander Westerveld to head in.

Holland wasted no time putting matters right. A French attack broke down, stand-in defenders Frank Leboeuf and Christian Karembeu lost concentration, and Patrick Kluivert strode clear to score.

In the 19th minute Holland almost went ahead. Bodo Zenden accelerated away down the left to set up Dennis Bergkamp, whose shot bounced up against the bar. Kluivert got his head to the rebound but Bernard Lama saved comfortably.

France regained the lead on the half-hour. The prelude was a quick, clever free-kick from midfield by Sylvain Wiltord. He spotted Westerveld straying forward and lofted in a 40-yard shot which the keeper just managed to tip over the bar. That allowed Robert Pires to send in a dangerous right-wing corner which Holland failed to clear, Wiltord fired the ball back into the penalty box and it was deflected home by David Trezeguet.

Marc Overmars should have equalised in the 49th minute after cutting in from the right, but stubbed his foot and the ball rolled gently to Lama. Two minutes later, however, Holland were level. France barely bothered to construct a defensive wall after conceding a free-kick 30 yards out, and Frank De Boer punished their carelessness with a free-kick of stunning ferocity which clipped the underside of the bar on its way beyond Lama.

Eight minutes later Holland were ahead. A clearance by Westerveld caught the French central defence too far forward and Zenden nipped in from the left, caught up with the ball and thrashed it in.

Keir Radnedge

21/06/00

DENMARK 0 CZECH REPUBLIC 2

Smicer adds to Danish gloom

PRIDE was the only thing at stake in Liege as the two teams beaten by Holland and France battled to avoid finishing bottom of the group.

Two second-half goals from Vladimir Smicer ensured that the Czech Republic returned home with something to show for their efforts. Denmark, in contrast, became only the second nation, after Turkey in 1996, not to score a goal in the European Championship finals.

The Danes had made a lively enough start. Mikkel Beck headed their best chance wide from a Thomas Helveg free-kick in the 14th minute, and two minutes later Jesper Gronkjaer's powerful shot was held by Pavel Srnicek at the second attempt.

Jon Dahl Tomasson also went close in the first half, but Srnicek tipped his hooked shot over the bar.

At the start of the second half, Srnicek denied Tomasson by blocking his header, and Stig Tofting went close when his 25-yard free-kick fizzed past a post.

For the Czechs, a quick break by Karel Poborsky in the 38th minute set up Smicer, but his shot was pushed away by Peter Schmeichel. Poborsky was again the provider when Smicer opened the scoring in the 64th minute. Pavel Nedved and Jan Koller linked well to release Poborsky down the right, and he set up Smicer to score from close range.

Three minutes later Koller used his height to great effect, flicking on for Smicer to score again by shooting past the outrushing Schmeichel.

John Holmesdale

RESULTS

JUNE 11 – BRUGES

France 3 (Blanc 16, Henry 64, Wiltord 90)
Denmark 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 28,100. **Ref:** Benko (Aut)
France (4-3-1-2): Barthez - Thuram, Blanc, Desailly, Lizarazu - Djorkaeff (Vieira 58), Deschamps, Petit - Zidane - Anelka (Wiltord 82), Henry.
Booked: none.
Denmark (4-4-2): Schmeichel - Colding, Henriksen, Schjonberg, Heintze - Bisgaard (Jorgensen 72), A Nielsen, Tofting (Gravesen 72), Gronkjaer - Sand, Tomasson (Beck 80).
Booked: Schjonberg.

JUNE 11 – AMSTERDAM

Holland 1 (F De Boer pen 89)
Czech Republic 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,800. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
Holland (4-4-2): Van der Sar - Reiziger, Stam (Konterman 74), F De Boer, Van Bronckhorst - Seedorf (R De Boer 57), Cocu, Davids, Zenden (Overmars 78) - Bergkamp, Kluivert.
Booked: F De Boer, Van Bronckhorst.
Czech Republic (4-5-1): Srnicek - Latal (Bejbl 70), Repka, Rada, Gabriel - Poborsky, Nedved (Lokvenc 90), Nemec, Rosicky, Smicer (Kuka 83) - Koller.
Booked: Nedved, Poborsky, Repka.
Sent off: Latal (90min; from the bench)

JUNE 16 – BRUGES

Czech Republic 1 (Poborsky pen 35)
France 2 (Henry 7, Djorkaeff 60)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 28,100. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)
Czech Republic (3-6-1): Srnicek - Repka, Rada, Gabriel (Fukal 46) - Poborsky, Smicer, Nedved, Bejbl (Lokvenc 49), Rosicky (Jankulovski 62), Nemec - Koller.
Booked: Gabriel, Nemec, Jankulovski.
France (4-3-1-2): Barthez - Thuram, Blanc, Desailly, Candela - Vieira, Deschamps, Petit (Djorkaeff 46) - Zidane - Henry (Wiltord 90), Anelka (Dugarry 55).
Booked: Thuram.

JUNE 16 – ROTTERDAM

Denmark 0
Holland 3 (Kluivert 57, R De Boer 66, Zenden 77)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 48,200. **Ref:** Meier (Swi)
Denmark (4-4-2): Schmeichel - Colding, Henriksen, Schjonberg (Helveg 82), Heintze - Bisgaard, A Nielsen (Tofting 61), Gravesen (Steen Nielsen 67), Gronkjaer - Sand, Tomasson.
Booked: A Nielsen.
Holland (4-4-2): Van der Sar (Westerveld 90) - Reiziger, Konterman, F De Boer, Van Bronckhorst - Zenden, Cocu, Davids, Overmars (R De Boer 61) - Bergkamp (Winter 76), Kluivert.
Booked: Van Bronckhorst, Reiziger, Konterman, Van der Sar.

JUNE 21 – AMSTERDAM

France 2 (Dugarry 8, Trezeguet 30)
Holland 3 (Kluivert 14, F De Boer 51, Zenden 59)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 51,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
France (4-4-2): Lama - Karembeu, Leboeuf, Desailly, Candela - Dugarry (Djorkaeff 68), Vieira (Deschamps 90), Micoud, Pires - Trezeguet, Wiltord (Anelka 80).
Booked: Dugarry, Desailly, Vieira.
Holland (4-4-2): Westerveld - Bosvelt, Stam, F De Boer, Numan - Overmars (Van Vossen 89), Cocu, Davids, Zenden - Bergkamp (Winter 77), Kluivert (Makaay 60).
Booked: Davids, Cocu.

JUNE 21 – LIEGE

Denmark 0
Czech Republic 2 (Smicer 64, 67)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** El Ghandour (Egy)
Denmark (4-4-2): Schmeichel - Helveg, Henriksen, Schjonberg, Heintze (Colding 68) - Goldbaek, Tofting, Steen Nielsen, Gronkjaer - Tomasson, Beck (Molnar 74).
Booked: Gronkjaer, Tofting, Molnar.
Czech Republic (3-5-2): Srnicek - Fukal, Rada, Repka - Poborsky, Nedved, Bejbl (Jankulovski 62), Berger, Nemec - Koller (Kuka 74), Smicer (Lokvenc 79).
Booked: Fukal, Rada, Poborsky.

GROUP D – FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	3	3	0	0	7	2	9
France	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
Czech Republic	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
Denmark	3	0	0	3	0	8	0

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All eyes...Nuno Gomes watches as his header flashes past Rustu for Portugal's first goal

Nuno Gomes double punishes 'stupid' Alpay

24/06/00

TURKEY 0 PORTUGAL 2

FEW TEARS were shed by neutrals as Turkey crashed out in the first quarter-final, after advancing further in a European Championship than ever before.

The Turks have improved significantly but their football is still designed more to stop than to create, and often is accompanied by large amounts of improvisation.

Nor did experienced defender Alpay Ozalan help Turkey's cause by lashing out at Fernando Couto and getting himself sent off as early as the 29th minute.

Whether he actually connected with his fierce right-hander is immaterial. The intent was clearly there, Couto was lucky not to have his handsome face rearranged, and Alpay's indiscipline left his 10 colleagues to fight on, valiantly but with no reward.

This was a sad lapse by Alpay which earned him a three-match suspension from UEFA. He had been given a Fair Play award at the European Championship four years ago, for resisting the temptation to trip Croat Goran Vlaovic, who had raced past him to score the only goal of their nations' meeting in Nottingham. This time he was the villain of the piece, for what the Turkish press described as his "irresponsible, stupid and unforgivable" action.

By the time Alpay left the field, Portugal already had discovered a pleasing rhythm, with Luis Figo again revealing his range of extraordinary talents.

He had lifted one shot wide soon after Turkish goalkeeper Rustu Recber's recovery from a couple of knocks. Rustu, hurt in going for a high ball, was then doubled up in agony after saving from Francisco Da Costa, who should have scored at the far post from Figo's corner.

Hakan Sukur, Turkey's big hope, sent one header looping dangerously close before Portugal's superior class was rewarded with a 44th-minute goal. Figo inevitably played a part in the movement, which was rounded off by a header from Nuno Gomes.

There was still time for the first half to have an even more dramatic finale. Couto, still looking shaky after a clash of heads, was only a fraction away from making a perfect tackle, but Arif Erdem went down and a penalty was awarded. However, Arif's shot from the spot was almost straight at Vitor Baia, who parried it and then, with Couto's help, blocked another attempt from the rebound.

That was Turkey's last chance. Despite having the half-time interval to get over their disappointment, and perhaps devise some new tactics, they looked a beaten side right from the restart.

Support for Hakan Sukur, never particularly plentiful, dwindled away to nothing, and Portugal, producing some excellent moves, were able to become absolutely dominant.

All they had to show for their creativity and numerical advantage, however, was a further goal from the unmarked Nuno Gomes in the 56th minute, after Figo had swept a cross back from the byline.

Nicholas Harling

Match Facts

JUNE 24 – AMSTERDAM

Turkey 0
Portugal 2 (Nuno Gomes 44, 56)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Jol (Hol)
Turkey (3-5-2): Rustu - Fatih, Ogun (Sergen 84), Alpay - Tayfun, Tayfur, Ergun, Okan (Oktay 62), Hakan Unsal - Arif (Suat 62), Hakan Sukur.
Booked: Okan, Hakan Unsal, Ogun.
Sent off: Alpay (29min).
Portugal (4-2-3-1): Vitor Baia - Sergio Conceicao, Fernando Couto, Jorge Costa, Dimas - Da Costa (Paulo Sousa 46), Paulo Bento - Joao Pinto, Rui Costa (Capucho 87), Figo - Nuno Gomes (Sa Pinto 74).
Booked: Joao Pinto, Fernando Couto, Rui Costa, Da Costa, Paulo Sousa.

Dismissed...Alpay is sent off for hitting Couto

First blood...Totti celebrates scoring Italy's opening goal

Match Facts

JUNE 24 – BRUSSELS

Italy 2 (Totti 33, Inzaghi 43)
Romania 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 41,000. **Ref:** Melo Pereira (Por)
Italy (3-4-2-1): Toldo - Cannavaro, Nesta, Iuliano - Zambrotta, Conte (Di Biagio 56), Albertini, Maldini (Pessotto 46) - Totti (Del Piero 75), Fiore - Inzaghi.
Booked: Albertini.
Romania (4-4-2): Stelea - Filipescu, Belodedici, Ciobotariu, Chivu - Petre, Hagi, Galca (Lupescu 68), Munteanu - Moldovan (Ganea 54), Mutu.
Sent off: Hagi (59min; two bookings).

Early exit...Hagi sees red for diving in the box

Easy for Italy after Hagi pays the price

24/06/00

ITALY 2 ROMANIA 0

THE tried and the tested delivered for Italy in Brussels. Tight defence and swift counter-attacking brought goals for Francesco Totti and Filippo Inzaghi, and a place in the semi-finals for Dino Zoff's side.

Zoff had stuck to his guns and his preferred striking partnership of Totti and Inzaghi despite advice to the contrary from Italy's 50 million armchair coaches, who had wanted to see Alessandro Del Piero in the starting line-up.

Romania's challenge wilted in the face of an Italian side growing in confidence with every match. But the Romanians were dealt no favours by the expulsion of their veteran captain and greatest-ever player, Gheorghe Hagi, who was sent off in his final competitive international match.

Reputations count for little in the modern game, and Hagi brought the curtain down on a distinguished career – three World Cups, two European Championships, 125 caps – in a terribly disappointing way. In fact, he left Euro 2000 with the worst disciplinary record in the tournament.

Hagi was sent off after collecting a second booking on the hour mark, having fallen in the penalty area under the slightest of challenges from Gianluca Zambrotta.

Hagi could have departed four minutes earlier, but instead was booked after stamping on Antonio Conte's ankle, causing ligament damage that forced the Juventus midfielder out of the tournament.

By then, Italy were comfortably in control, having taken the lead through Totti in the 33rd minute. A free-kick was headed back from the left by Paolo Maldini and cleared, but only as far as Stefano Fiore, who lobbed the ball back for Totti to chest it down and volley smartly past Bogdan Stelea.

Hagi reminded us of his mercurial side when he beat keeper Francesco Toldo to a magnificent long pass from Adrian Mutu, but his shot bounced against a post.

The Romanians continued to press, with Constantin Galca sending a powerful volley just wide from 25 yards in the 38th minute. But just as it looked as if Emerich Jenei's team might equalise, the Italian sucker punch was delivered two minutes before half-time. Demetrio Albertini was first to the ball in midfield and sent Inzaghi through on goal to shoot low past Stelea.

After the break the Italians continued to frustrate the Romanians. Hagi was booked for the foul on Conte; and the second yellow, his fourth in three games, followed shortly afterwards.

Without him, Romania were left chasing the game. Liviu Ciobotariu's powerful shot was blocked on the line; then Mutu's strong run into the box was ended bravely by Toldo.

Inzaghi had two chances to put Italy further ahead. Stelea did well to tip his shot on to a post, and then the Juve forward poked wide when clean through.

Zoff could afford to send on Del Piero for a cameo appearance near the end. By then, there was no chance of Italy's favourite son upsetting the established order.

Gavin Hamilton

Five and counting...Overmars scores his first against Yugoslavia

of the box and sending in a low cross which was diverted into the net by Govedarica under severe pressure from Kluivert.

Three minutes later, the Dutch forward had his hat-trick for real, sidefoot-volleying Bodo Zenden's splendid pass into the far corner of Ivica Kralj's goal.

Kluivert went off, to huge adulation, after an hour, but there was no respite for the Yugoslavs. Marc Overmars, moving in from the flank as if to show that Kluivert was not the only Dutchman with drive, teed up a pass and then smashed it in from 20 yards for a spectacular fifth.

Few of the crowd were leaving, such was the magnetic manner of the Dutch display, and there were two more goals to come in injury time – another from Overmars after Philip Cocu's shot had rebounded off a post, and one from Savo Milosevic from a rebound off the bar at the other end after a hooked shot from Predrag Mijatovic.

The poor Slavs could hardly raise a handshake for the scorer.

Dave Fullmer

Orange all the way

25/06/00

HOLLAND 6 YUGOSLAVIA 1

A SIMPLY stunning display by a rampant Holland team shot Yugoslavia to pieces before a joyous Rotterdam crowd and put the co-hosts into the semi-finals.

The city was a mass of orange, and the Slavs stood little chance against such a united opposition.

To their credit, they battled on for longer than most people would have expected, but their last-minute goal could hardly be described as a 'consolation' effort. Nothing could console a team who had been so comprehensively outclassed.

Patrick Kluivert has been on the world scene for several years, yet he has only just turned 24. His chequered past has left him with a lot of critics, but the Barcelona forward is a man apart once the ball and the goal are in his sights, and few current strikers can match him for finishing ability.

Kluivert looked to have scored four of the Dutch goals, which would have been a European Championship finals record, but admitted that he did not apply the final touch to the third. Next day UEFA agreed with him, debiting it instead to Dejan Govedarica, one of the harassed Yugoslav side.

"It's a dream," said Kluivert, with a degree of understatement. "We were all tensed up for a tough game, but everything went right for us."

Indeed it did. Holland seemed to win every tackle, get every bounce. And how they cashed in!

Yugoslavia were in the game for only 24 minutes. Then Dennis Bergkamp floated an inch-perfect pass into the box and Kluivert, controlling it with a deft touch, crashed in the first goal.

The second was similar, except that the pass came from Edgar Davids. The finish was pure Kluivert.

Eight minutes after the break Paul Bosvelt created the third, beating Stojkovic on the right

Match Facts

JUNE 25 – ROTTERDAM

Holland 6 (Kluivert 24, 38, 54, Govedarica og 51, Overmars 78, 90)
Yugoslavia 1 (Milosevic 90)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Garcia Aranda (Spa)
Holland (4-4-2): Van der Sar (Westerveld 65) - Bosvelt, Stam, F De Boer, Numan - Overmars, Cocu, Davids, Zenden (R De Boer 80) - Bergkamp, Kluivert (Makaay 60).
Booked: Bosvelt.
Yugoslavia (3-5-2): Kralj - Saveljic (J Stankovic 56), Mihajlovic, Djukic - Komljenovic, Stojkovic (D Stankovic 52), Govedarica, Jugovic, Drulovic (Kovacevic 70) - Milosevic, Mijatovic.
Booked: none.

Hat-trick Kluivert...Holland's three-goal hero

Masterful...Zidane's free-kick opens the scoring for France

Raul miss allows France to advance

25/06/00

SPAIN 1 FRANCE 2

FRANCE reached the semi-finals after overcoming Spain in a hotly contested encounter in Bruges. Goals from Zinedine Zidane – an exquisite free-kick – and Youri Djorkaeff sent the world champions through, but only after Raul had missed a penalty in the last minute.

The French appeared unstoppable on this evidence. Zidane was once again their inspiration; his goal, amazingly the tournament's first direct from a free-kick, was breathtaking in its execution. When France's playmaker needed the extra gears to overcome a spirited Spanish side, he found them as effortlessly as his passes found their targets throughout the match.

Spain are still fighting the psychological demons inside them. Their dramatic recovery against Yugoslavia had helped dispel the notion that they cannot handle the pressure. This Spain side are moulded in the image of their coach, Jose Antonio Camacho, and they had earned their place in this quarter-final the hard way.

But when Raul needed all his mental strength to take the match into extra time, his courage evaporated. Camacho had long since substituted his regular penalty-taker Gaizka Mendieta, who had scored their first-half equaliser from the spot. So Raul stepped up instead. He sent the ball both high and wide, and his team were out of the tournament.

Spain had begun brightly enough, making their attacking intentions clear by fielding a front three of Raul, Alfonso and Pedro Munitis. Guardiola's curling free-kick was pushed away by Fabien Barthez on 18 minutes, and France's keeper was on hand three minutes later to save acrobatically a lob by Raul.

Patrick Vieira had had the first chance for France, heading over in the third minute from Zidane's free-kick, while Christophe Dugarry also put a header over the bar.

Zidane's goal came a minute after he had completely miscued from eight yards out in front of an unprotected Santiago Canizares. Embarrassed by missing such an easy chance, Zidane proceeded to give a masterclass in the art of the free-kick. Agustin Aranzabal had clattered into Djorkaeff, and Zidane curled the resultant set-piece over the wall and into the top corner. But just as France looked as if they might take control, Spain won a penalty. The lively Munitis was fouled by Lilian Thuram and Mendieta stroked the spot-kick past Barthez.

France needed only six minutes before they scored a second. Vieira ran at the defence before squaring the ball to Djorkaeff, who fired a blistering shot inside the near post.

Match Facts

JUNE 25 – BRUGES

Spain 1 (Mendieta pen 38)
France 2 (Zidane 32, Djorkaeff 44)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
Spain (4-3-3): Canizares - Michel Salgado, Abelardo, Paco, Aranzabal - Mendieta (Urzaiz 57), Guardiola, Ivan Helguera (Gerard 77) - Alfonso, Raul, Munitis (Etxeberria 73).
Booked: Alfonso, Guardiola, Michel Salgado, Paco.
France (4-3-1-2): Barthez - Thuram, Blanc, Desailly, Lizarazu - Djorkaeff, Deschamps, Vieira - Zidane - Henry (Anelka 82), Dugarry.
Booked: Deschamps.

Head in hands...Raul rues his penalty miss

A rash of yellow cards followed in the second half, before Djorkaeff nearly added a third goal for the French late on from a free-kick. Then came the final drama, with Raul's penalty miss after Barthez had brought down Abelardo. Even after that, substitute Ismael Urzaiz could have equalised for Spain, but headed over.

Gavin Hamilton

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TITIONS • NEWS • VIEWS • SWAP • TRADE

Moment of truth...Wiltord shoots but Abel Xavier (No 14) blocks on the line with his hand

Match Facts

JUNE 28 – BRUSSELS

France 2 (Henry 51, Zidane pen 117 - golden goal)
Portugal 1 (Nuno Gomes 19)
Aet. HT: 0-1. **90mins:** 1-1. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Benko (Aut)
France (4-3-1-2): Barthez - Thuram, Blanc, Desailly, Lizarazu - Vieira, Deschamps, Petit (Pires 87) - Zidane - Anelka (Wiltord 72), Henry (Trezeguet 105).
Booked: Vieira, Desailly.
Portugal (4-2-3-1): Vitor Baia - Abel Xavier, Fernando Couto, Jorge Costa, Dimas (Rui Jorge 91) - Da Costa, Vidigal (Paulo Bento 61) - Sergio Conceicao, Rui Costa (Joao Pinto 78), Figo - Nuno Gomes.
Booked: Vidigal, Figo, Jorge Costa, Dimas, Joao Pinto.
Sent off: Nuno Gomes (117min).

French make Final after almighty penalty row

28/06/00

FRANCE 2 PORTUGAL 1 (AET)

WHAT an unpleasant and undignified end to a whirlwind journey through the Low Countries. Portugal, the team who had delighted so many during Euro 2000, exited the tournament in a manner unbecoming to the wonderful football they had played throughout.

The abiding memory of Portugal's contribution to the first European Championship of the new millennium will still be that of Rui Costa and Luis Figo holding court, the midfield orchestrators of a magical free-flowing football which combined technique, speed and imagination to leave other teams in the shade.

But the behaviour of the Portuguese in the final minutes of semi-final extra time, when France were awarded a penalty that Zinedine Zidane converted for a golden goal victory, added a bitter footnote to the story of Figo and Co.

Zidane's cool conversion of the spot-kick sent France into the Final for the first time since 1984, and sparked huge protests from the Portuguese players, angry at the decision to award a penalty after Abel Xavier had handled Sylvain Wiltord's shot.

The Portuguese believed the handling was accidental and rushed to protest to linesman Igor Sramka, whose raised flag had alerted referee Gunter Benko to the indiscretion. But Xavier's reaction told the true story. After the ball had struck his left hand, he fell to the ground and rolled on to his stomach in despair.

Portugal coach Humberto Coelho, who was to resign within minutes of the end of the game, and living legend Eusebio intervened on the touchline as the protests grew more and more heated. The Portuguese swarmed around Sramka and Benko, prompting the latter to send off Nuno Gomes.

It was always going to be too much to expect a repeat of the classic 1984 semi-final, when Michel Platini's 118th-minute winner took France into the Final at Portugal's expense. But this rematch, 16 years on, provided much incident as well as last-minute heartache for the Portuguese.

France had the better of the early exchanges, but it was Portugal who took the lead through Nuno Gomes. Didier Deschamps misjudged the bounce of the ball after Sergio Conceicao's strong run was checked and it fell free for Nuno Gomes, who sent a wonderful shot past Fabien Barthez.

French forwards Thierry Henry and Nicolas Anelka rarely found their stride as Portugal, having taken the lead, packed the midfield. It was Rui Costa and Figo, rather than French playmaker Zidane, who thrived in the crowded surroundings.

France's defence, wary of the Portuguese counter-attack, rarely ventured forward in the first half. But words clearly were said at half-time by coach Roger Lemerre, and his side took only five minutes after the restart to equalise.

A more adventurous Lilian Thuram put in Anelka, who turned inside Jorge Costa and played the ball back for Henry to fire in.

Zidane grew in influence as the second half progressed and the French won a succession of corners and free-kicks, but could not make the breakthrough.

Vitor Baia dived to push Manu Petit's volley around a post, while Portugal had to wait until the 90th minute for their first effort of the second half, Barthez saving brilliantly from Xavier's header.

Portugal's play had lost some spark with the substitution of Rui Costa by Joao Pinto, while France were given a more attacking edge with the introduction of Robert Pires for Petit. But it was another substitute, David Trezeguet, who helped to secure victory. His run into the area was stopped by Vitor Baia, but the ball fell to Wiltord, whose shot led to the penalty uproar – and to furious Portugal's departure.

Gavin Hamilton

Golden moment...Zidane settles matters

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Spot-kick horror...Frank De Boer fails to beat Toldo for a second time

A bolt from the blue ends orange dream

29/06/00

ITALY 0 HOLLAND 0 (AET; Italy 3-1 on pens)

THE dream finale, Holland-France, was not to be. Italy reached the summit of Euro 2000 after calling upon all their stealth and guile to take the Dutch to a penalty shoot-out, where the inevitable happened.

Italy, reduced to 10 men just after the half-hour mark, had contained and compressed Holland, until the Dutch lost their nerve when they needed it most. They had missed two spot-kicks inside 90 minutes, and they went on to miss three more.

Defeat on penalties – for the third European Championship in a row – was a cruel way for the co-hosts to leave the tournament. But ruthlessness has never been part of the Total Football vision, as those missed penalties in normal time testified.

Holland coach Frank Rijkaard resigned immediately after the match, saying: "My ambition was to win this championship. We have not done so, so I have no choice other than to go."

Before the tournament began, Rijkaard had said his team could do "beautiful things" at Euro 2000. But there are times when it is necessary to do the ugly things if you want to succeed.

Italy understand that. Their tournament record speaks volumes for their ugliness. Nothing is allowed to distract from the pursuit of success.

Dino Zoff's side displayed none of the attacking zeal they had deployed in their previous matches. Instead, Holland were issued with the challenge to break through the massed ranks of defence.

The Dutch rose to the challenge, with Philip Cocu and Dennis Bergkamp both having chances even before Gianluca Zambrotta was booked after quarter of an hour for a late tackle on Bodo Zenden. When Zambrotta was sent off after 34 minutes for a second booking, again for a crude challenge on Zenden, Italy's game plan became clear.

Alessandro Del Piero, a surprise starter ahead of Francesco Totti, moved to right midfield as Italy switched to a back four and set out to contain the Dutch. However, it was not long before Holland found a way through. Patrick Kluivert was pulled back by Alessandro Nesta, but Francesco Toldo, diving at full stretch to his left, saved the resulting penalty from Frank De Boer.

Italy drew strength from Toldo's save, and had further reason to believe that they were on course to reach the Final when the Dutch missed a second penalty. This time, after Edgar Davids had been brought down by Mark Iuliano, Kluivert sent Toldo the wrong way, but his shot hit a post.

Holland continued to hog possession while Italy maintained their reputation for ruthlessness, defending with vigour and persistence.

Substitute Marco Delvecchio could have won the match in regular time, but his weak shot was held by Edwin Van der Sar.

Delvecchio had an even better chance to settle the game with a golden goal in the 15th minute of extra time, but Van der Sar saved brilliantly with his feet.

Clarence Seedorf, on for Bergkamp, had a late chance for Holland, only for his shot to go wide, and all thoughts turned to the penalty shoot-out.

Luigi Di Biagio, taking the first kick, exorcised the ghosts of his miss in the 1998 World Cup quarter-final against France by powering a shot past Van der Sar. Then the Dutch capitulated. Frank De Boer repeated his earlier mistake, sending a weak shot too close to Toldo, and after substitute Gianluca Pessotto made it 2-0, Jaap Stam blasted his kick high over the bar and far away.

Totti chipped a gentle shot inside a post for 3-0, then Kluivert kept Dutch hopes alive by scoring, as Paolo Maldini, who followed him, hit a weak shot, which Van der Sar pushed out.

Then Paul Bosvelt, needing to score to give Holland any hope, hit a low shot to Toldo's right, but the keeper stopped it with his right hand.

The penalty curse had struck Holland again.

Italian fans in Amsterdam Arena had a simple message for the hordes of disappointed Dutchmen. "Cantenaccio!!!" screamed a banner in the only section of the stadium not covered from top to toe in orange.

Holland's dream had been killed off by a bolt from the blue.

Gavin Hamilton

Match Facts

JUNE 29 – AMSTERDAM

Italy 0
Holland 0
Aet. Att: 50,000. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
Italy 3-1 on pens
Penalty shoot-out (Italy first): Di Biagio 1-0, F De Boer saved 1-0; Pessotto 2-0, Stam missed 2-0; Totti 3-0, Kluivert 3-1; Maldini saved 3-1, Bosvelt saved 3-1.
Italy (3-4-1-2): Toldo - Cannavaro, Nesta, Iuliano - Zambrotta, Albertini (Pessotto 78), Di Biagio, Maldini - Fiore (Totti 83) - Inzaghi (Delvecchio 67), Del Piero.
Booked: Iuliano, Toldo, Maldini, Di Biagio.
Sent off: Zambrotta (34min; two bookings).
Holland (4-4-2): Van der Sar - Bosvelt, Stam, F De Boer, Van Bronckhorst - Overmars, Cocu (Winter 95), Davids, Zenden (Van Vossen 77) - Bergkamp (Seedorf 87), Kluivert.
Booked: Zenden, Davids, Van Bronckhorst, Stam.

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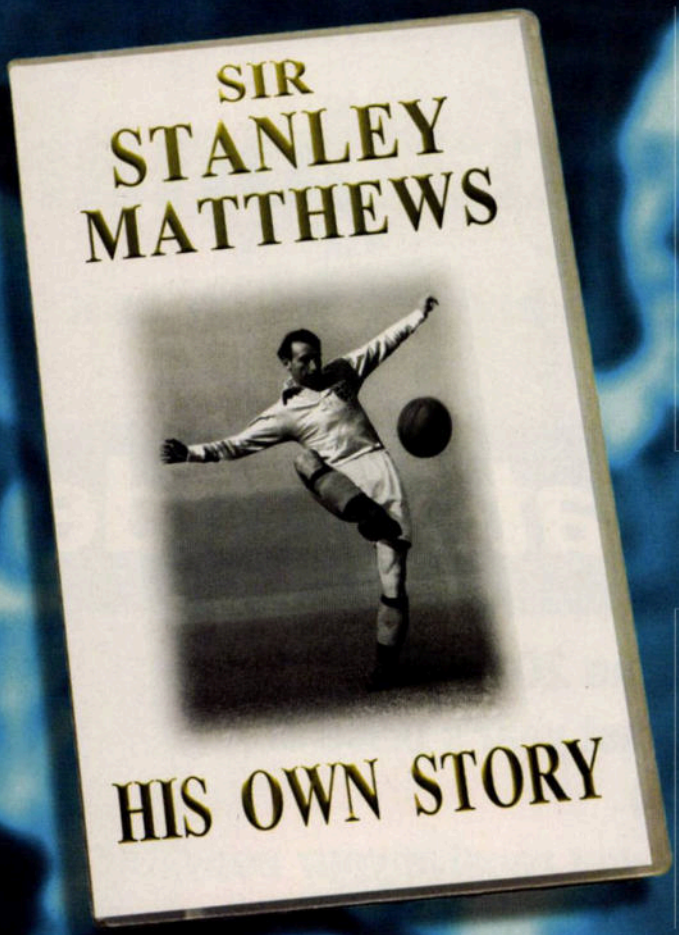

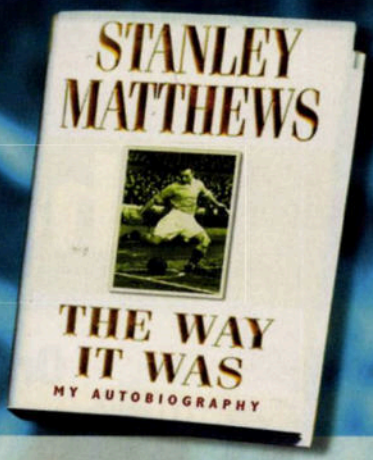

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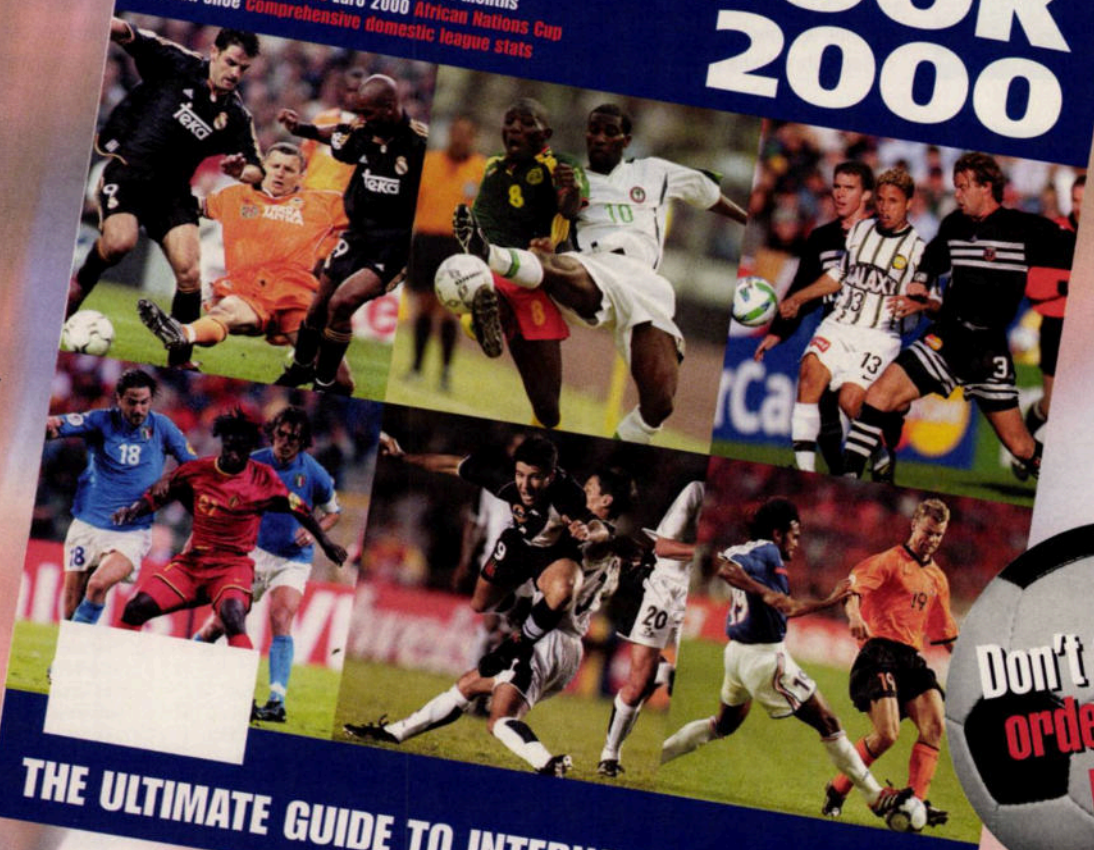

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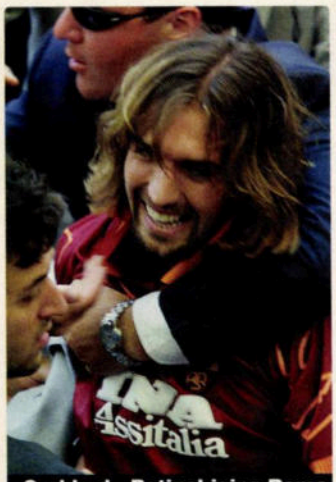

Grabbed...Batigol joins Roma

Batistuta leads the field

Gavin Hamilton reports on the main transfers of the summer so far

GABRIEL BATISTUTA was the subject of the summer's highest profile transfer so far when he moved from Fiorentina to Roma in a £22million deal.

The move sparked the inevitable riots in Florence, where the Argentinian striker has been a hero with Fiorentina fans for the past nine seasons.

Batistuta's Roma salary of £5m a year will make him the world's highest-paid player.

When asked why he chose Roma, who did not qualify for next season's Champions League, Batistuta, 31, said: "I did not leave Florence to earn more money; what convinced me is that there is the will to win here."

The transfer market was slow before and during Euro 2000, but was expected to pick up after the tournament. Of the players competing at Euro 2000, David Trezeguet's move to Juventus was the biggest. The France striker cost £15m from Monaco, sparking speculation the Filippo Inzaghi will leave the Turin club.

Turkey striker Hakan Sukur is returning to Italy for a second time, joining Internazionale for £5million from Galatasaray. Hakan, scorer of

TRANSFERS

PLAYER		FROM	TO
Guillermo AMOR	M	Fiorentina	Villarreal
Stephen APPIAH	M	Udinese	Parma
ARIF Erdem	F	Galatasaray	Real Sociedad
Ole-Martin ARST	F	Gent	Standard Liege
Khaled BADRA	D	Esperance	Denizlispor
Sergei BARBAREZ	M	Borussia Dortmund	Hamburg
Fabien BARTHEZ	G	Monaco	Manchester United
Christian BASSEDAS	M	Velez Sarsfield	Newcastle
Gabriel BATISTUTA	F	Fiorentina	Roma
Laszlo BOGNAR	D	Debrecen	Kyiv Dynamo
Elvir BOLIC	F	Fenerbahce	Rayo Vallecano
Riadh BOUAZIZI	M	Etoile Sahel	Bursaspor
Dario CABROL	M	Union Santa Fe	Toulouse
Fabian CARINI	G	Danubio	Lazio
Alfredo CASCINI	M	Independiente (Arg)	Toulouse
Pablo CAVALLERO	G	Velez Sarsfield	Celta Vigo
Albert CELADES	M	Celta Vigo	Real Madrid
CESAR Sanchez	G	Valladolid	Real Madrid
CLAUDIO LOPEZ	F	Valencia	Lazio
Gianni COMANDINI	F	Vicenza	Milan
Francisco DA COSTA	M	Monaco	Sporting Lisbon
Olivier DACOURT	M	Lens	Leeds
Patricio D'AMICO	F	Belgrano Cordoba	Metz
DEDE	D	Campinas	Vicenza
Eric DEFLANDRE	D	Club Brugge	Lyon
DIDA	G	Corinthians	Udinese
Bernard DIOMEDE	F	Auxerre	Liverpool
Manuel DOS SANTOS	D	Montpellier	Marseille
Vincent DOUKANTIE	M	Red Star	Strasbourg
Franck DUMAS	D	Marseille	Lens (loan)
EDU	M	Corinthians	Arsenal
Christophe EGGIMANN	G	Metz	Strasbourg
FABIANO	F	Ponte Preta	Rennes
FARINOS	M	Valencia	Internazionale
Antonio FOLHA	F	FC Porto	Standard Liege
Sebastien FREY	G	Verona	Internazionale
Esteban FUERTES	F	Derby	Lens
Sinisa GOGIC	F	Olympiakos	APOEL Nicosia
Jaime GONZALEZ	F	Colo Colo	Bari
Xavier GRAVELAINE	F	Le Havre	Monaco
Eidur GUDJOHNSEN	F	Bolton	Chelsea
Julio GUTIERREZ	F	Union Espanola	Udinese
Alf-Inge HAALAND	M	Leeds	Manchester City
HAKAN Sukur	F	Galatasaray	Internazionale
Jimmy Floyd HASSELBAINK	F	Atletico Madrid	Chelsea
Laurent HUARD	M	Sedan	Saint-Etienne
Allan JOHNSTON	M	Sunderland	Rangers
Franck JURIETTI	D	Bastia	Monaco
Christian KAREMBEU	M	Real Madrid	Middlesbrough
Bert KONTERMAN	D	Feyenoord	Rangers
LAUREN Etame-Mayer	M	Mallorca	Arsenal
Philipp LAUX	G	Ulm	Borussia Dortmund
Adam LEDWON	M	Fortuna Koln	Rapid Wien
Alejandro LEMBO	D	Nacional	Parma

PLAYER		FROM	TO
Stephane LIEVRE	D	Nantes	Toulouse
Danijel LJUBOJA	F	Sochaux	Strasbourg
Peter LOVENKRANDS	F	AB	Rangers
Steve MARLET	F	Auxerre	Lyon
MARQUINHO	M	Sao Paulo	Bayer Leverkusen
Patrick MBOMA	F	Cagliari	Parma
Gary McALLISTER	M	Coventry	Liverpool
Medhi MENIRI	D	Nancy	Troyes
Johan MICOUD	M	Bordeaux	Parma
Kenny MILLER	F	Hibernian	Rangers
Andy MOLLER	M	Borussia Dortmund	Schalke
Farid MONDRAGON	G	Independiente (Arg)	Metz
Sylvain N'DIAYE	M	Bordeaux	Lille
Dejan NEMEC	G	Mura Murska	Club Brugge
Morten NIELSEN	D	Strasbourg	Guingamp
Shabani NONDA	F	Rennes	Monaco
Pascal NOUMA	F	Lens	Besiktas
NUNO MENDES	D	Chaves	Strasbourg
Perica OGNJENOVIC	F	Real Madrid	Valladolid (loan)
Allen OLESEN	D	AB	Saint-Etienne
Sunday OLISEH	M	Juventus	Borussia Dortmund
Fabian O'NEILL	M	Cagliari	Juventus
Miran PAVLIN	M	Karlsruhe	FC Porto
Frederic PEIREMANS	M	Twente	Real Sociedad
Christophe PIGNOL	D	Monaco	Lille
Stephane PORATO	G	Marseille	Monaco
Mladen POSAVEC	M	Varteks	Bregenz
Martijn REUSER	F	Vitesse Arnhem	Ipswich
Teddy RICHERT	G	Bordeaux	Lille
Fernando RICKSEN	M	AZ Alkmaar	Rangers
Paul RITCHIE	D	Hearts	Rangers
ROQUE JUNIOR	D	Palmeiras	Milan
Laurentiu ROSU	M	Steaua Bucharest	Numancia
Walter SAMUEL	D	Boca Juniors	Roma
Michele SERENA	M	Internazionale	Parma
Ciriaco SFORZA	M	Kaiserslautern	Bayern Munich
Alexei SMERTIN	M	Lokomotiv Moscow	Bordeaux
Santiago Hernan SOLARI	M	Atletico Madrid	Real Madrid
Mario STANIC	M	Parma	Chelsea
Davor SUKER	F	Arsenal	West Ham
Neil SULLIVAN	G	Wimbledon	Tottenham
David TREZEGUET	F	Monaco	Juventus
Pierre VAN HOOIJDONK	F	Vitesse Arnhem	Benfica
VANDER	F	Ponte Preta	Rennes
Mirsad VARESANOVIC	D	Bursaspor	Austria Wien
Alexander VENCEL	G	Strasbourg	Le Havre
VICTOR	F	Valladolid	Villarreal
Mark VIDUKA	F	Celtic	Leeds
Goran VLAOVIC	F	Valencia	Panathinaikos
Davor VUGRINEC	F	Trabzonspor	Lecce
Johan WALEM	M	Parma	Udinese
Nigel WINTERBURN	D	Arsenal	West Ham
ZE ELIAS	M	Internazionale	Olympiakos
Par ZETTERBERG	M	Anderlecht	Olympiakos

two goals for Turkey at Euro 2000, played five matches for Torino in 1995, before returning homesick to Istanbul. Another Turk from Euro 2000 on the move is Arif Erdem, from Galatasaray to Real Sociedad, while other Frenchmen moving clubs are Johan Micoud (Bordeaux to Parma), Christian Karembeu (Real Madrid to Middlesbrough) and Fabien Barthez (Monaco to Man Utd).

None of the players from semi-finalists Portugal had lined up a big move, though Francisco Da Costa returns home to Sporting Lisbon from French champions Monaco.

Of the Dutch players at Euro 2000, Pierre Van Hooijdonk moves to Benfica from Vitesse and Bert Konterman joins the Dutch colony at Rangers from Feyenoord.

Belgians on the move include Eric Deflandre (Club Brugge to Lyon), and Johan Walem (Parma to Udinese).

In Germany, Ciriaco Sforza has returned to Bayern from Kaiserslautern, while Andy Moller switches to Schalke from Dortmund, who signed Juve's Sunday Oliseh.

● As *World Soccer* went to press, Lazio claimed to have signed Hernan Crespo from Parma, with Marcelo Salas and Matias Almeyda plus £3m moving in the opposite direction. Such a deal would value Crespo at a world record £42m.

EUROPEAN GOLDEN SHOE

TOP 50 - FINAL STANDINGS

Rank		Goals	Factor*	Points
1	JARDEL (FC Porto, Por)	38	2	76
2	Kevin Phillips (Sunderland, Eng)	30	2	60
3	Ruud Van Nistelrooy (PSV, Hol)	29	2	58
4	Salva (Racing Santander, Spa)	27	2	54
5	Pierre Van Hooijdonk (Vitesse, Hol)	25	2	50
6	Catanha (Malaga, Spa)	24	2	48
	Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (At. Madrid, Spa)	24	2	48
	Dimitris Nalitzis (PAOK Salonika, Gre)	24	2	48
	Andrii Shevchenko (Milan, Ita)	24	2	48
	Ivica Vastic (Sturm Graz, Aut)	32	1.5	48
11	Anderson (Lyon, Fra)	23	2	46
	Gabriel Batistuta (Fiorentina, Ita)	23	2	46
	Nikos Limberopoulos (Panathinaikos, Gre)	23	2	46
	Alan Shearer (Newcastle, Eng)	23	2	46
15	Ole-Martin Arst (Gent, Blg)	30	1.5	45
	Toni Brogno (Westerlo, Blg)	30	1.5	45
	Serkan Aykut (Samsunspor, Tur)	30	1.5	45
18	Alberto Acosta (Sporting Lisbon, Por)	22	2	44
	Hernan Crespo (Parma, Ita)	22	2	44
	Michalis Konstantinou (Iraklis, Gre)	22	2	44
	Roy Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna, Spa)	22	2	44
	Demis Nikolaidis (AEK Athens, Gre)	22	2	44
	David Trezeguet (Monaco, Fra)	22	2	44
24	Eric Gaucho (Estrela Amadora, Por)	21	2	42
	Savo Milosevic (Zaragoza, Spa)	21	2	42
	Marco Simone (Monaco, Fra)	21	2	42
27	Dwight Yorke (Manchester United, Eng)	20	2	40
28	Michael Bridges (Leeds, Eng)	19	2	38
	Arnold Bruggink (PSV, Hol)	19	2	38
	Andy Cole (Manchester United, Eng)	19	2	38
	Gomez (OFI Crete, Gre)	19	2	38
	Martin Max (1860 Munich, Ger)	19	2	38
	Luc Nilis (PSV, Hol)	19	2	38
	Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink (Twente, Hol)	19	2	38
35	Charles Amoah (St Gallen, Swi)	25	1.5	37.5
36	Marco Ferrante (Torino, Ita)	18	2	36
	Vincenzo Montella (Roma, Ita)	18	2	36
	Nuno Gomes (Benfica, Por)	18	2	36
39	Rune Lange (Tromso, Nor)	23	1.5	34.5
40	Ulf Kirsten (Bayer Leverkusen, Ger)	17	2	34
41	Georgi Demetradze (Alaniya Vladikavkaz, Rus)	22	1.5	33
	Vratislav Lokvenc (Sparta Prague, Cze)	22	1.5	33
	Attila Tokoli (Dunaferr, Hun)	22	1.5	33
44	Brandao (Guimaraes, Por)	16	2	32
	Christian (Paris Saint-Germain, Fra)	16	2	32
	Shabani Nonda (Rennes, Fra)	16	2	32
47	Ahmet Dursin (Besiktas, Tur)	21	1.5	31.5
	Andreas Lund (Molde, Nor)	21	1.5	31.5
	Christian Mayrleb (Austria Wien, Aut)	21	1.5	31.5
	Tomislav Sokota (Dinamo Zagreb, Cro)	21	1.5	31.5

**The factor relates to the strength of the League in which the player plays*

ESM ELEVEN

EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES

MAY 2000

TEAM OF THE MONTH

Casillas (3, Real Madrid); Michel Salgado (3, Real Madrid), Donato (2, Deportivo), Ivan Helguera (4, Real Madrid), Roberto Carlos (4, Real Madrid); McManaman (6, Real Madrid), Redondo (4, Real Madrid), Effenberg (3, Bayern), Veron (3, Lazio); Mendieta (3, Valencia), Raul (6, Real Madrid).

HOW THEY VOTED

A BOLA (PORTUGAL)

Schmeichel (Sporting); Michel Salgado (Real Madrid), Nesta (Lazio), Stam (Man Utd), Romero (Deportivo); Redondo (Real Madrid), Figo (Barcelona), Mendieta (Valencia), Veron (Lazio); Henry (Arsenal), Raul (Real Madrid).

DON BALON (SPAIN)

Taffarel (Galatasaray); Angloma (Valencia), Popescu (Galatasaray), Ivan Helguera (Real Madrid), Beto (Sporting); Mendieta (Valencia), Simeone (Lazio), Simone Inzaghi (Lazio), Angulo (Valencia); Kily Gonzalez (Valencia), Anelka (Real Madrid).

FOOT (BELGIUM)

Casillas (Real Madrid); Cannavaro (Parma), Blanc (Inter), Desailly (Chelsea), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Paulo Sergio (Leverkusen), Djalminha (Deportivo), McManaman (Real Madrid), Overmars (Arsenal); Raul (Real Madrid), Hakan Sukur (Galatasaray).

FRANCE FOOTBALL

Kahn (Bayern); Michel Salgado (Real Madrid), Nesta (Lazio), Adams (Arsenal), Pancaro (Lazio); McManaman (Real Madrid), Redondo (Real Madrid), Effenberg (Bayern Munich), Hagi (Galatasaray); Raul (Real Madrid), Hakan Sukur (Galatasaray).

GAZZETTA DELLO SPORT (ITALY)

Casillas (Real Madrid); Babbel (Bayern), Ivan Helguera (Real Madrid), Djukic (Valencia), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); McManaman (Real Madrid), Veron (Lazio), Effenberg (Bayern Munich), Fran (Deportivo); Raul (Real Madrid), Claudio Lopez (Valencia).

KICKER (GERMANY)

Taffarel (Galatasaray); Angloma (Valencia), Ivan Helguera (Real Madrid), Donato (Deportivo), Silvinho (Arsenal); McManaman (Real Madrid), Effenberg (Bayern Munich), Simeone (Lazio), Hagi (Galatasaray); Anelka (Real Madrid), Angulo (Valencia).

VOETBAL INTERNATIONAL (HOLLAND)

Taffarel (Galatasaray); Pancaro (Lazio), Donato (Deportivo), Beto (Sporting), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); McManaman (Real Madrid), Veron (Lazio), Redondo (Real Madrid), Hagi (Galatasaray); Batistuta (Fiorentina), Raul (Real Madrid).

WORLD SOCCER

Casillas (Real Madrid); M Salgado (Real Madrid), Popescu (Galatasaray), Ivan Helguera (Real Madrid), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Mendieta (Valencia), Redondo (Real Madrid), Keane (Man Utd), McManaman (Real Madrid); Raul (Real Madrid), Morientes (Real Madrid).

TEAM OF THE SEASON 1999-00

On a high...Boca Juniors raise the Libertadores Cup

Boca the best

Eric Weil reports on the Libertadores Cup

BOCA JUNIORS brought the Libertadores Cup back to Argentina – the country that has won nearly half the 41 editions – after three years of Brazilian domination by beating holders Palmeiras on penalties after two draws (2-2 and 0-0) in the final legs.

This year's bigger tournament, increasing from 20 clubs to 32, also awarded bigger prizes, and Boca Juniors took almost £3.5million for winning the trophy, half of it going to the players as a bonus.

In the Final first leg, in Buenos Aires, defender Rodolfo Arruabarrena twice put Boca ahead, but his team – ineffective up front – could not retain the lead in an even game which finished 2-2. This seemed to indicate that Palmeiras would retain the trophy after their home leg, but although attack is their strongest department, they failed to score against Boca's firm defence in the 0-0 draw which forced a penalty shoot-out.

The hero of the hour was Colombian international goalkeeper Oscar Cordoba. Apart from making good saves during the match, he saved two penalties as Boca won the shoot-out 4-2.

Palmeiras were not as good a side as last year, despite including seven of the players who won the Cup in 1999.

While many thought that bringing in more clubs would make the tournament less competitive, the opposite happened. With only the top two instead of three teams qualifying for the second round from each of the four-team first round groups, there were fewer 'dead' games.

Palmeiras did not have an easy group, having to face both Bolivia's The Strongest and Ecuador's El Nacional in the altitude of their stadiums, 3,400 and 2,800 metres above sea level respectively. They lost both games but still topped Group 7 to become part of a four-strong contingent of Brazilian clubs who made it through to the last 16.

Palmeiras eventually met Sao Paulo rivals Corinthians in a semi-final that ended 6-6 on aggregate, with the trophy holders finally going through to meet Boca on penalties.

Corinthians took one honour – striker Luizao was easily tournament top scorer with 15 goals.

Two invited Mexican teams from the Central American zone reached the quarter-finals for the first time and one, America, reached the last four.

Here they gave Boca Juniors a close run, despite the Argentinians taking a 3-0 lead in the first 20 minutes of the opening leg, which they eventually won 4-1. In the return in Mexico, however, in front of the tournament's biggest crowd of 110,000, America outplayed their rivals and led 3-0 with seven minutes to go. Then Roma-bound defender Walter Samuel headed the goal that put Boca in the Final.

After the match, Mexican fans attacked some 4,000 Argentine supporters in what was the only major hooligan incident of the tournament.

By the time Palmeiras reached the Final they had played no fewer than 39 games this year, which meant constant shuffling to rest players. As a result they had been knocked out of the Copa Brasil and the semi-finals of the Sao Paulo state championship.

Boca Juniors had played 33 games and fielded reserve teams in League games for three consecutive weeks.

Boca's victory means that Argentinian clubs have now won the trophy 18 times, with 11 for Brazil, eight for Uruguay, two for Paraguay and one each for Chile and Colombia.

BRAZIL

Flamengo defy chaos to take title

BRAZIL's state championships ended with Flamengo winning the Carioca (Rio de Janeiro) title and Sao Paulo the Paulista (Sao Paulo).

Flamengo's win came despite the extraordinary boardroom chaos reported last month. Paulo Cesar Carpegiani was sacked after a 5-1 defeat by Vasco da Gama, and Carlinhos, who had been kicked out last year to make way for him, was recalled despite having just undergone heart bypass surgery.

Carlinhos was too ill to take over straightaway and at the first training session after Carpegiani's dismissal, the players were left sitting on the pitch waiting for someone to take charge. Eventually, youth team coach Carlos Cesar took the helm for half a dozen games.

Fortunately for Flamengo, main rivals Vasco were even more disorganised. Vasco employed four managers during the course of the tournament, while strikers Edmundo and Romario refused to talk on the pitch. Edmundo was then suspended for indiscipline on the eve of the Final, while Felipe simply refused to play at left-back.

Still winning...grandfather Rai

As a result, Vasco, who won the first stage, fell apart. Flamengo won the second stage and then hammered Vasco 5-1 on aggregate in the Final.

Veteran Rai, a grandfather at the age of 35, celebrated another Paulista title as Sao Paulo beat Santos 3-2 on aggregate in the Final. Goalkeeper Rogerio Ceni was among the scorers in the second leg when he floated in a free-kick.

Brian Homewood

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Three out of three for Argentina

ARGENTINA maintained their 100 per cent record in the qualifying group for the 2002 World Cup, but

Head boys...Argentina stay top

they were less than convincing when beating Bolivia 1-0 at home in their third game.

Substitute Gustavo Lopez scored the goal with just seven minutes left after Bolivia's Marcelo Carballo had been sent off on the hour.

Brazil surprised with another poor display in Lima, but now lie second in the table. Peru had more of the ball, but again failed in front of goal and Antonio Carlos pounced on a defensive error by Juan Pajuelo after 34 minutes to score the winner.

Captain Paolo Montero's fighting spirit infected the whole Uruguayan team in their 2-1 home win over Chile, and he fittingly scored the winner just before half-time. Even so, it was close until the end.

Paraguay's goalkeeper, Jose Luis Chilavert, said before their home game against Ecuador that his team's best chance was in the air, and so it proved as he continued to send high clearances as near as possible to the opposing goal. A 3-1 victory, without playing well, left Paraguay joint third with Uruguay.

Colombia gained their first win (after two draws) 3-0 at home against pointless Venezuela.

Eric Weil

River have the edge in close finish

ARGENTINA

WITH just three rounds to play, River Plate were favourites to take the closing championship title, though they were facing stiff competition from Independiente and San Lorenzo.

River's cause was not helped by a 2-1 home defeat by Union Santa Fe, who were well placed in fourth, three points off the lead.

Boca Juniors' challenge has been hampered by the deduction of three points following the suspension of their match away to Newell's Old Boys. The game was abandoned after 15 minutes when flares were thrown on to the field by Boca hooligans, and when the remaining time was played out the following weekend, Boca ended up losing 1-0.

This left them nine points behind River, though they had a match in hand. Better news for Boca is that Martin Palermo is back and scoring again after a six-month injury lay-off.

Racing Club had to sign their 73rd coach since winning the Intercontinental Cup in 1967 when Gustavo Costas resigned following the side's 11th game without a win. Costas was the mascot of that 1967 team, then progressed to ballboy, junior teams and First Division before becoming coach. His replacement is another former player, Alberto Jorge.

Argentinos Juniors, meanwhile, moved off the bottom having gone six games unbeaten since Carlos MacAllister took over as coach, assisted by brother Patricio. Both are former players of the club.

Eric Weil

ROUND-UP

Four on the run for Nacional

NACIONAL clinched **URUGUAY'S** opening championship for the fourth year in succession when they beat eternal rivals Penarol 1-0 away. The result left them eight points clear of Danubio in second with just two games to play. Penarol, lying fourth, finished the game with just nine men.

A lot of the credit for Nacional's success goes to coach Hugo De Leon, the former Uruguayan international defender, who has nurtured a number of young stars: defender Alejandro Lembo, 22 (who has just moved to Parma), ever-present Javier Morales, 25, and Diego Scotti, 23, in midfield.

Argentina-born Leo Fernandez of **BOLIVIAN** side Oriente Petrolero has been foiled in his attempt to gain Bolivian nationality in order to play for the national team. Fernandez, reckoned to be the best goalkeeper in the country, married a Bolivian in order to qualify for nationality. However, it was not granted when the authorities found out that it was a marriage of convenience for which he had paid cash.

Former Bolivian international Milton Melgar has taken over from Argentinian Carlos Ramacciotti as coach at champions Blooming – and has told 16 players that they can go following a string of defeats. Bolivar, another one-time leading club, have put four players on the transfer list and sacked another.

With three games to go, Jorge Wilstermann were well-placed to win the opening championship.

CHILE: International midfielder Clarence Acuna has been banned for four months from all soccer after testing positive for drugs following the World Cup qualifying match against Peru. However, he went into the suspension having scored both goals for his club side, Universidad de Chile, in the 2-1 win over Santiago Morning in the opening championship Final.

An away win at Audax Italiano kept Universidad Catolica three points clear at the top after seven games.

COLOMBIA: Atletico Nacional beat America of Cali 1-0 in the 207th meeting between the clubs. However, America continued to lead the table, though only on goal difference, from city rivals Deportivo.

Meanwhile it has been confirmed that Colombia

Brace before ban...Clarence Acuna

will host the 2001 Copa America, with the United States and Mexico as the two guest countries.

ECUADOR: Barcelona, the country's biggest club, are bottom of the opening championship, with one player, Alejandro Alfaro Moreno, saying he is owed £200,000.

PARAGUAY: Olimpia clinched the opening championship, having gone 10 points clear of Sol de America with three games to go.

VENEZUELA: Deportivo Tachira easily won the four-team championship play-off.

● A couple in Goias, Brazil, have become the first husband and wife to officiate in a professional league game. Lourival Ferreira, a fireman, was referee and his wife, Celia Olinto, a policewoman, was one of his assistants. They met on a refereeing course in 1994.

● Domingos Da Guia, one of Brazil's best ever international defenders, has died in Rio, aged 87.

Eric Weil

Caps are now too common to count

USA v 'Mexico' farce is a case in point, writes Paul Gardner

USA

HOW LONG will it be before the first player to collect 200, 500, or even 1,000 caps is acclaimed? Not very, it seems. Lothar Matthaus of Germany has now racked up a world record 150 caps, and it could be that his record will be the last one that means anything. Because caps are now common currency, handed out willy-nilly on the basis of games that should never be classified as full internationals.

A case in point is that of USA forward Cobi Jones. While Matthaus was setting his world record for caps in Europe, Jones was breaking the US record with his 129th appearance – this time against Mexico in the US Cup.

Jones has been the team's brightest star this year, which makes it all the more regrettable that his 129th cap – through no fault of his own – should be tarnished.

The game against Mexico was, in fact, no such thing. The Mexican federation, at the last moment, decided not to send its national team to the US Cup tournament. Instead, it sent a team composed largely of players from the club side Pumas UNAM, plus one or two guests.

National team coach Manuel Lapuente was nowhere to be seen. In his place, coaching this 'Mexico' team, was Hugo Sanchez – currently the coach at Pumas.

The definition of a full 'A' international (the only type of games for which caps are awarded) has long been rather vague, but one criterion has always been accepted: games played by national teams against club sides do not count as full internationals. Yet here was a situation in which both the US and Mexican federations agreed that this should be an 'A' international, so caps were legitimately awarded.

Record holder...but Cobi Jones' 129th cap was tarnished

The US federation then piled farce upon farce by expressing its displeasure with the Mexicans for not sending the full team. Federation spokesman Jim Moorhouse announced that the Mexicans' appearance fee – almost £100,000 for each of the three games – would not be paid.

Although the Mexicans claimed that an extension to their domestic League play-offs prevented players from several top clubs from being selected, the excuse was hardly acceptable because the full national team, under Lapuente, assembled in camp during the US Cup.

Even Sanchez admitted, after his team had lost 3-0 to the USA in the final game, that "the federation has not thought this out. I give them a yellow card for not planning the national team's schedule better."

Moorhouse said: "They didn't make the right effort in terms of getting a representative team out. There's a certain expectancy level in terms of some of the marquee names."

As it happened, one of the biggest of the Mexican marquee names – Luis Hernandez – was playing in the USA at the time, having signed a three-year contract with Major League Soccer to play for Los Angeles Galaxy.

The signing made an immediate impact at the gate. Hernandez's debut drew 40,303 fans to the Rose Bowl, by far Galaxy's biggest crowd of the season.

Galaxy coach Sigi Schmid was somewhat less delighted because his team had to be greatly rearranged to accommodate Hernandez. He had to get rid of several top players to make room within the strict salary budget imposed on each team by the League. Schmid was particularly acerbic after Galaxy lost at home to MetroStars, a team that had profited by picking up Roy Myers and Clint Mathis, two players Schmid had been obliged to unload. "Everyone can see what the League did to us," he said. "Maybe someone's happy. Maybe New York will make it to the finals, and everyone will be happy."

Statistics lend some support to Schmid's view. Before Hernandez arrived, Galaxy were unbeaten with five wins and five draws. Since Hernandez, they have won two, lost three and drawn three.

Statistics also work against the other big MLS signing, Lothar Matthaus. MetroStars won three and lost six of their first nine games of the season, with Matthaus. Since he departed for Euro 2000, they have won five, drawn one and lost one.

Matthaus has yet to play well for MetroStars, and his New York adventure has featured constant rumours that he is already considering other playing or coaching offers.

The Hernandez deal was the costliest in MLS history – the League is said to have paid Mexican club Tigres nearly £3.5million for his contract. Yet, when asked why he chose to play in the League, Hernandez replied: "MLS gives me a better chance to play in Europe. I am currently in talks with a European club but can't reveal which."

While Matthaus has, so far, given the impression that his stint with the MetroStars is not something that he is taking too seriously, Hernandez says outright that MLS is merely a stepping stone to better things.

Matthaus, now 39, represents the top end of the image problem that MLS wants to avoid: that of being an elephants' graveyard for over-the-hill players. Hernandez – even though he is 31 – symbolises the other end of the problem: that if MLS discovers or buys good youngsters, they are likely to become targets for European clubs, and to be lost to the League after only a season or two.

● Toluca crushed Santos 7-1 on aggregate in the **MEXICAN** Summer Championship Final, putting the seal on an impressive campaign. They took 10 points more than any other side in the group stage, and went on to convincingly beat Puebla in the quarter-finals (9-0) and Guadalajara in the semis (6-3).

Full story in next month's issue.

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Mboma the hat-trick hero

Mark Gleeson reports on the first round of the World Cup qualifying group stage

PATRICK MBOMA celebrated his move to Parma from Cagliari in Italy's Serie A by rattling in a hat-trick as Cameroon got the group phase of their World Cup qualifying campaign off to the perfect start.

A 3-0 win in Libya put the Indomitable Lions in the lead in Group A and served notice of their intent to return to the World Cup finals yet again.

There was action in all five qualifying groups, with the likes of Nigeria, Tunisia, Guinea and Madagascar all looking strong after their opening games.

Cameroon overcame the absence of several regulars and a hostile 80,000 crowd in Tripoli to win their game, with Mboma scoring in the 35th and 66th minutes before rounding it off from the penalty spot three minutes from time.

The game was interrupted for around 20 minutes when angry Libyan fans threw stones and firecrackers on to the pitch.

Angola also made a winning start to their Group A campaign but had striker Akwa to thank for their recovery against neighbours Zambia. Akwa scored twice in two minutes right at the end of the game to help the home team win 2-1.

Zambia, under new Dutch adviser Jan Brouwers, had led before half-time through Harry Milanzi, but the defeat did not sit well with government officials back in Lusaka, who called football officials in to discuss the defeat and prospects for the national side.

Nigeria started their campaign in Group B with a 2-0 win over Sierra Leone. Only Jay-Jay Okocha, Sunday Oliseh and Nwankwo Kanu of the regular campaigners were in the starting line-up. Both younger brothers of Oliseh and Kanu also played. Okocha scored, as did Austria-based Benedict Okwuegbu, in the first half, but the failure to add more goals set off a predictable volley of criticism from the pundits.

Sudan overcame Liberia to go level with Nigeria at the top of the standings, after a 2-0 win in Omdurman.

In Group C there were morale-boosting draws for both Namibia and Senegal against North African opposition. Namibia are expected to be the whipping boys in the group but were the better team in their 0-0 draw with Morocco in Windhoek. Ruben Van Wyk hit the bar midway through the first half and afterwards Moroccan coach Henri Kasperczak admitted his team were lucky to go home with a point.

Senegal did even better, holding Algeria 1-1 away in Annaba. A penalty equaliser from Rafik Saifi proved the only highlight for the home side.

Madagascar made a good impression with their 3-0 triumph over the Democratic Republic of Congo in Antananarivo. Hary Randrianaivo scored twice, with Etienne Rado Rasanaivo adding a penalty, to put Madagascar top of Group D.

Tunisia wasted a 2-0 lead against the Ivory Coast in the group's other game in Abidjan. Midfielder Zoubier Beya set up early goals for Imed Mhedhebi and Kais Ghodhbane, but bad marking allowed Ibrahima Bakayoko to pull one back a minute before half-time. Feyenoord's Bonaventure Kalou then equalised.

The late comeback, however, did little to please the home fans, who pelted the Ivorian players with an assortment of objects after the final whistle. Tear gas was needed to disperse fans before the Tunisian team bus could leave.

In Group E, Titi Camara was among the scorers in Guinea's 3-0 thumping of Zimbabwe in Conakry, while Burkina Faso drew 1-1 in Malawi, a vital point for later in the contest.

Goal grabber...Patrick Mboma

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Draw favours Al Ahly

EGYPT's Al Ahly, fresh from winning a seventh successive domestic League title, have been given a relatively easy path to regaining their status as Africa's top club side.

Ahly have won more African club competitions than any other, but were last on the winners' rostrum in 1993. This year the draw has been favourable to the Arab world's favourite team, pairing them in Group B with Hearts of Oak of Ghana, Jeanne d'Arc of Senegal and Nigeria's Lobi Stars. Hearts are the most experienced side in terms of previous participation but do not have enough firepower to challenge the Egyptians. Jeanne d'Arc knocked out defending champions Raja in the second round and could provide a surprise element.

Group A is infinitely tougher, with three strong contenders bunched together. Last year's runners-up, Esperance of Tunisia, are marginal favourites over Africa Sports from Ivory Coast and South African champions Mamelodi Sundowns. Sable de Batie from Cameroon make up the group.

Esperance had to struggle past Djoliba of Mali in the second round while Sundowns won on away goals against Nkana FC of Zambia. But Africa Sports, coached by Martial Yeo, look to be in considerable form with a 100 per cent record in the first two knockout rounds and the competition's top scorer so far in Fadel Keita.

Mark Gleeson

COSAFA CASTLE CUP

Lesotho rattle the major players

TINY Lesotho have spoilt what would have been a full-strength line-up for the semi-finals of the Cosafa Castle Cup by eliminating Zambia in the quarter-finals of the annual southern African championship.

Zambia, twice winners of the title, lost 3-1 on penalties in Maseru. There were very few scoring opportunities at either end on a bumpy pitch, but Lesotho outgunned Zambia in terms of the number of shots on goal and the corner count.

The reward for Lesotho is a home game against defending champions Angola in the semi-final on July 23. In the other tie, South Africa and Zimbabwe meet on July 29 – three weeks after their World Cup qualifier in Harare.

South Africa easily saw off Swaziland in the last of the quarter-finals, played at Witbank, where Germany-based left-winger Delron Buckley scored twice inside the first 18 minutes.

The semi-final winners meet in a two-legged Final in August.

Mark Gleeson

Owona cleared of selling on tickets

A FORMER president of the **CAMEROON** Football Federation has been cleared after two years in detention over an alleged World Cup tickets scam.

Vincent Owona was released by a Yaounde court after being found not guilty of selling 3,000 of Cameroon's France 98 ticket allotment to an English firm. He had been in detention since June 5, 1998.

Teenager Samuel Eto'o of Real Madrid captained Cameroon on a two-match trip to South Korea, where they played against Pusan Icons and Pohang Steelers.

Elsewhere in **CENTRAL AFRICA**, Alain Da Costa Soares has returned as head of **GABON'S** national team after the resignation of Brazilian Antonio Dumas.

EAST AFRICA

KENYAN club Tusker FC won the annual East and Central African Club Championship in Rwanda, beating home team APR FC 3-1 in the Final in Kigali. The tournament was boycotted by defending champions Young Africans of Tanzania, who claimed they were still owed money from the previous championship in Uganda in January 1999.

Young Africans also refused to surrender the trophy until they were paid, and a new trophy had to be bought.

Former Kenyan international goalkeeper James Sianga is the new national team coach. He lost his first match in charge when Burkina Faso beat Kenya 1-0 in a friendly in Nairobi.

NORTH AFRICA

Former England coach Terry Venables says he has been offered around £2million to coach **LIBYA'S** national team and has had discussions with Said Gaddafi, son of the Libyan leader and head of the country's football association. Current coach Carlos Bilardo of Argentina is said to be leaving his post, despite the surprise 4-3 aggregate win over Mali in the preliminary round of the World Cup qualifiers in April.

Another footballing Gaddafi, Moammer, has been signed by Maltese champions Birkirkara from Al Ahli of Tripoli.

The top of the table League clash in **TUNISIA** between Etoile Sahel and Esperance ended 0-0, leaving the latter still four points ahead with three matches left.

Belouizdad won the **ALGERIAN** title for the fifth time, after a 1-1 draw at JS Kabylie.

Paris Saint-Germain captain Ali Benarbia has agreed to play for Algeria's national team in the World Cup qualifying campaign after holding out for years in the hope of a call-up from France, where he was born. Benarbia made the decision after meeting sports minister Abdelmalek Sellal.

Meanwhile, Strasbourg's Brahim Hemdani, born in Colombes of Algerian parents, has turned down a call from new Algerian coach Abdel Djaadaoui, saying he has ambitions of playing for France. At the same time, captain Moussa Saib has quit the international arena.

Algeria choice...Ali Benarbia

JS Kabylie's 24-year-old striker Hocine Gacemi died in a Paris hospital after being injured during a League match against USM Annaba. He suffered massive brain damage in a head-on collision and died despite being transferred to Paris for intensive medical care. Gacemi was the leading goalscorer in the Algerian League and set for a transfer to France.

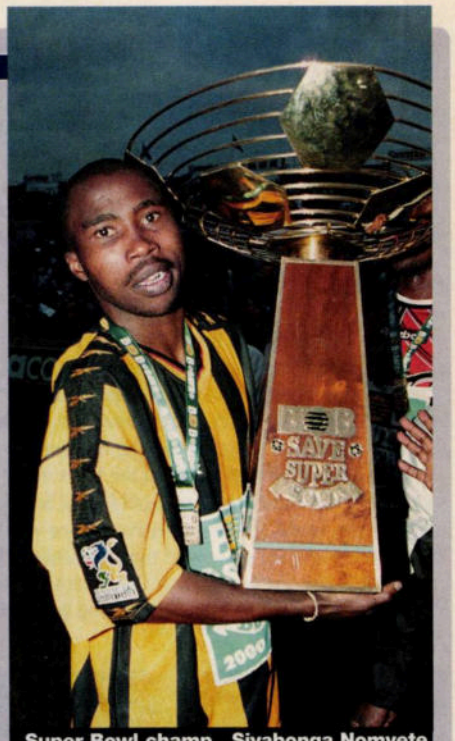
Raja Casablanca won a vital game away at Kawkab Marrakesh to keep on course for a fifth successive **MOROCCAN** title. They led by two points from FUS Rabat.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Mamelodi Sundowns won the championship in **SOUTH AFRICA** for an unprecedented third successive season, but were beaten 1-0 by Kaizer Chiefs in the Super Bowl Final. Chiefs won with a controversial penalty from Siyabonga Nomvete on the stroke of half-time.

Mbabane Highlanders won the **SWAZI** championship undefeated, finishing seven points ahead of Green Mamba.

Shy Kumwenda is the latest **ZAMBIAN** player headed to China, after the recent signing of Peter Chitila and Edward Kangwa.



Super Bowl champ...Siyabonga Nomvete

Petro Atletico dropped only two points in their opening 10 games in **ANGOLA'S** Girabola.

WEST AFRICA

Yugoslav coach Dusan Draskovic has signed a two-month contract worth £6,500 to coach **SIERRA LEONE'S** national team in their opening World Cup and African Nations Cup qualifiers.

The Amilcar Cabral Cup, won by hosts the Cape Verde Islands in May, will be hosted by **GUINEA** next year.

Officials in **MALI** have suspended the national championship because of the violence that followed Djoliba's elimination from the Champions League by Tunisia's Esperance.

In **IVORY COAST'S** championship, Africa Sports head Group A by two points from Satellite FC, while ASEC Abidjan have a seven-point lead in Group B. The top three from both pools qualify for championship play-offs.

Hearts of Oak opened a nine-point lead after only 10 games of the **GHANAIAN** championship.

NIGERIA'S championship is headed by Kwara United, three points ahead of Plateau United and Gabros.

In **GUINEA-BISSAU,** UDIB have a one-point lead over Sporting, with Portos a further point behind.

Mark Gleeson

CORRECTION

• **In the Summer 2000 edition, we reported that Allan Harris was to coach Al Ittihad of Egypt. We are happy to point out that no such offer was made.**

Talebi's kids win King Hussein Cup

Michael Church on another triumph for Iran

IRAN added to their growing list of achievements since returning to the forefront of Asian competition by taking the inaugural West Asian Championship with a 1-0 win over Syria in the Final in Amman, Jordan.

Sohrab Bakhtiarizadeh scored in the 36th minute to give the Iranians the King Hussein Cup with a team made up almost entirely of players under 23.

Coach Jalal Talebi has been under fire since his team's disappointing showing in the Asian Cup's qualification phase, and his decision to take a young and inexperienced team to Jordan added to the pressure. A 1-1 draw with Palestine in the group stages intensified the feelings back in Tehran, but Iran eventually came through, topping the group.

Talebi's team went on to defeat the hosts in the semi-finals with Ali Karimi scoring the only goal. The 22-year-old Pirouzi forward has re-emerged as one of the hottest talents in Iran since serving a one-year ban for attacking a referee in February 1999, and was voted the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Iran also won the Asian Futsal Championship in Thailand to qualify for the World Championships in Guatemala, along with Kazakhstan and Thailand.

Top choice...Ali Karimi was voted the tournament's best player

JAPAN

Cerezo's slip hands stage to Marinos

THE J.League's First Stage went all the way to the finish and beyond for Yokohama F Marinos, who eventually clinched the title while sitting on their pitch watching extra-time action from Osaka on the giant National stadium screen.

All had looked over for Marinos when Cerezo Osaka beat them 3-2 on a rainy evening in Yokohama the previous weekend. That left Cerezo, unbeaten at home all season, needing only to defeat second-from-bottom Kawasaki Frontale at home to win the title. Instead, Frontale beat Cerezo 2-1 in extra time. So Marinos' 2-0 win over JEF United lifted them a point clear. "I'll try to make the Second Stage less dramatic," said Marinos coach Ossie Ardiles.

Shimizu S-Pulse wound up third after recording a 2-0 win over the reigning champions, Jubilo Iwata.

Marinos have moved to tighten up their defence with the signing of Croatian World Cup defender Goran Juric on a three-month contract. Juric comes from Dinamo Zagreb, where Ardiles was coach last year.

Kashima Antlers, who finished only eighth, gave non-performing Brazilian striker Bebeto the boot, while Kyoto Purple Sanga fired their manager, Shu Kamo, at the end of the stage, in which they took only seven points. Former Flugels and JEF boss Gert Engels took his place.

Sanga striker Kazuyoshi Miura became the first player to score 100 J.League goals. Meanwhile, his club have signed 19-year-old midfielder Park Ji-sung, who has been in the South Korean national squad all year.

Stage winner...Ossie Ardiles

Verdy Kawasaki also have turned to the Koreans in a big way, and will field a rare combination – a North Korean (Ryang Kyu-sa) and South Korean (Kim Hyung-seog) striking partnership – in the Second Stage.

South Korea forward Hwang Sun-hong has returned to Kashiwa Reysol five months after joining K-League champions Suwon Bluewings. Yugoslav striker Sasa Drakulic has gone in the opposite direction.

Just as national coach Philippe Troussier's prospects were looking bleak, everything swung back in his favour. The JFA committee set up to assess his work decided to judge him on the results of Japan's four matches in June, and they were excellent: a 2-2 draw with France, a 4-0 crushing of Jamaica, a 1-1 draw with Slovakia and a 2-0 win over Bolivia. Troussier duly got a six-month extension until the Olympics and the Asian Cup, and also received an informal invitation to stay until 2002.

Mike Plastow & Michi Ishijima

ASIAN ROUND-UP

North Koreans nominated to stage World Cup games

SOUTH KOREA, co-hosts of the 2002 World Cup, have proposed that **NORTH KOREA** should stage two of the tournament's matches, as a goodwill gesture following a recent landmark summit between the countries' leaders.

The South Korean national team won the LG Cup in Tehran, defeating Egypt in the Final.

Puchon SK took the first trophy of the domestic season with a golden goal win over Chunnam in the Daehan Cup Final. In the League, Anyang Cheetahs topped the table after nine rounds, with 18 points, three clear of Chunbuk Motors.

HONG KONG international Lee Kin-wo has been banned for a year after an on-field tussle which resulted in Macau referee Choi Kuok-kun being suspended for life. Lee kicked the ball at Choi after being sent off for using abusive language during a friendly between Hong Kong and Macau. The referee responded by punching Lee's head.

English coach Bob Houghton, sacked six months ago as **CHINA'S** national coach, has been fired again, this time by Second Division club Shanghai Pudong, who had taken only 11 points from 15 matches.

Substitute Suleiman Hudeithi scored the golden goal that brought Al Ittihad a 2-1 victory over cross-Jeddah rivals Al Ahli in the Final of the **SAUDI ARABIAN** championship play-offs. The champions have now strengthened their squad by signing forward Marzouq Al Otaibi from Al Shabab for a Saudi Arabian record £1.2million.

Romanian coach Ilie Blacci, who steered Al Ain to the semi-finals of the 1999 Asian Club Championship, has resigned and is due to be replaced by Argentina's Luis Oscar Folon.

Al Sadd completed the Double in **QATAR,** lifting the Emir Cup two months after claiming the League, with a 2-0 victory over Al Rayyan.

In **BANGLADESH**, hosts Noakhali District clinched the Sher-e-Bangla Cup National title with a 2-1 win over the Army XI after extra time. Midfielder Arman Mia scored the golden goal.

MALAYSIA striker Rusdi Suparman helped Selangor back to the top of Premier One when he scored a winner two minutes from the end of the game against Perak.

The Armed Forces team SAFFC are poised to regain the title in **SINGAPORE**. After the 13th round they were six points ahead of Tanjong.

Michael Church, Mohamed Chbaro & Azam Mahmood

Wolves are top dogs

AUSTRALIA

WOLLONGONG WOLVES became the unlikeliest winners of Australia's National Soccer League when they overcame favourites and hosts Perth Glory in a pulsating Grand Final.

To the delight of the 43,000 spectators (the largest crowd to attend a club match in Australia), Glory led 3-0 at half-time through goals by Bobby Despotovski, Ljubo Milicevic and Jamie Karwell.

But the introduction of Wolves substitute Mark Robertson for the second half made all the difference and his ball-winning ability and distribution in midfield sparked a tremendous comeback.

Australian international Scott Chipperfield pulled the first goal back, veteran Matthew Horsley added a second, and teenager Paul Reid equalised in the final minute of normal time. The game eventually went to penalties, and Reid scored the decisive spot kick as Wolves ran out 7-6 winners.

After 226 dull, goalless minutes, the Australia v Paraguay series finally came to life when Craig Foster put the Socceroos ahead just after half-time during the third and final match in Melbourne. David Zdrillic added another shortly afterwards, only for Miguel Caceres to pull one back in the 58th minute. However, Australia easily held on to their lead.

Both teams were well below strength, but the biggest Paraguayan name, captain Jose Luis Chilavert, made his presence felt right through to injury time of the third encounter, when he was sent off for manhandling referee Gerry Connolly.

● Hosts Australia will be Oceania's sole representatives at the Sydney Olympics. The **NEW ZEALAND** Under-23 selection's qualifying campaign ended one stage short of success when South Africa won a two-leg tie 4-2 on aggregate.

John Gregg, the son of former Northern Ireland international goalkeeper Harry Gregg, became the first player in six matches to score against the New Zealand leaders, University Mount Wellington, when his Dunedin Technical side held them to a 1-1 draw. Napier City Rovers and Manawatu are four points behind, with Miramar Rangers two further adrift.

Paul Moon

Grand masters...Wollongong Wolves celebrate victory over Perth

CROSSWORD

Mitre
The authority..

Win a top-quality Mitre football

Mitre has kindly donated a top-quality football as first prize for this month's crossword. The first correct entry selected at random after August 4 will win the ball. Five runners-up will each win a *World Soccer* polo shirt.

SEND YOUR ENTRY TO: JULY CROSSWORD, *World Soccer*, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.

ACROSS

1 Sevilla's Portuguese defender, Orlando Jose Lemos Martins (6)
3 Assistant who succeeded Ardiles as Dinamo Zagreb coach (4)
7 Swede elected UEFA president in 1990 (9)
9 Ex-Molde striker brought to Wimbledon by former boss Egil Olsen (4)
10 Bari midfield man recruited last year from Argentinos Juniors (6)
12 Matysek's Leverkusen understudy transferred to Eintracht Frankfurt (6)
13 River Plate coach replaced by Gallego earlier this year (4)
16 French full-back or central defender in Man Utd's squad (9)
17 Milan forward loaned to Venezia last term (4)
18 Finnish international currently with PSV (6)

DOWN

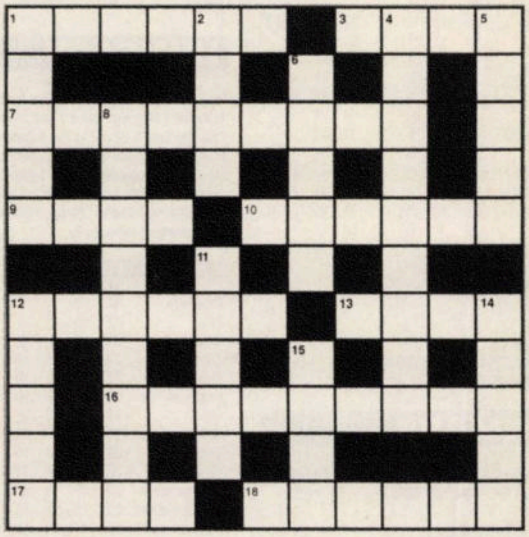
1 Czech midfield stalwart of Slavia Prague and Atletico Madrid fame (5)
2 Bayer Leverkusen striker back in Germany's national squad (4)
4 Kent Nielsen's co-coach at AGF of Aarhus (9)
5 Roda JC's Australian keeper previously employed in England (5)
6 Ex-Boca Juniors forward now scoring for Racing of Uruguay (5)
8 Denmark's experienced centre-back contracted to Panathinaikos (9)
11 Drogheda-born right-back of Leeds and the Republic of Ireland (5)
12 South Korean international forward, veteran of three World Cups (5)
14 Albania's national coach (5)
15 Young central defender in Sporting Lisbon's title-winning side (4)

JUNE SOLUTION

ACROSS: 7 Acuna, 8 Azizi, 9 Sellimi, 10 Udi, 11 Raja, 13 Daum, 17 PSV, 18 Arilson, 20 Riise, 21 Seric.
DOWN: 1 Bassir, 2 Puel, 3 Galic, 4 Sakic, 5 Viduka, 6 Gili, 12 Jevric, 14 Monaco, 15 Carew, 16 Cisse, 17 Peru, 19 Sarr.

JUNE WINNERS

1st prize: Tom Symonds, Lakewood, WA, USA.
5 runners-up: Edward Binns, New Zealand; Datan Ganor, Israel; Fabian Larrier, Barbados; Rakesh Neupane, Qatar; Alexander Clark, Tayside.



NAME _____

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JULY (photocopied coupons are acceptable)

EUROPE

AUSTRIA

May 20: Austria Wien 1 SV Ried 0; Bregenz 0 FC Tirol 3; Linz ASK 2 Grazer AK 2; Salzburg 0 Rapid Wien 0; Sturm Graz 7 Lustenau 0.
May 27: FC Tirol 2 Austria Wien 1; Grazer AK 0 Bregenz 4; Lustenau 0 Salzburg 2; Rapid Wien 0 Linz ASK 1; SV Ried 1 Sturm Graz 1.

AUSTRIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Tirol	36	24	5	7	54	30	77
Sturm Graz	36	22	8	6	77	32	74
Rapid Wien	36	20	6	10	59	29	66
Austria Wien	36	16	6	14	49	44	54
SV Ried	36	15	8	13	56	39	53
Salzburg	36	12	10	14	39	45	46
Grazer AK	36	12	6	18	41	62	42
Linz ASK	36	10	9	17	41	49	39
Bregenz	36	10	5	21	39	73	35
Lustenau	36	4	7	25	22	74	19

BULGARIA

May 13: Olympic-Beroe 0 Velbazhd 4.
May 20: Pirin 2 Spartak Varna 0; Botev 0 Chernomorets 1; Dobrudzha 3 Shumen 0; Minjor 2 Olympic-Beroe 0; Velbazhd 2 Belasitsa 1; Neftohimik 2 Lovech 1.
May 21: CSKA 3 Lok Sofia 2; Slavia 0 Lev Sofia 2.
May 27: Spartak Varna 1 Neftohimik 1; Lovech 3 Velbazhd 1; Belasitsa 2 Minjor 2; Olympic-Beroe 1 CSKA 1; Lev Sofia 2 Dobrudzha 1; Shumen 1 Botev 2; Chernomorets 2 Pirin 0; Lok Sofia 6 Slavia 0.
June 3: Chernomorets 3 Spartak Varna 2; Pirin 3 Shumen 1; Dobrudzha 2 Lok Sofia 1; Slavia 1 Olympic-Beroe 2; CSKA 3 Belasitsa 0; Minjor 4 Lovech 3; Velbazhd 1 Neftohimik 0; Botev 1 Lev Sofia 2.
June 10: Spartak Varna 5 Velbazhd 3; Neftohimik 4 Minjor 1; Belasitsa 2 Slavia 0; Olympic-Beroe 1 Dobrudzha 0; Lok Sofia 1 Botev 1; Lev Sofia 1 Pirin 0; Shumen 2 Chernomorets 3; Lovech 3 CSKA 2.

BULGARIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lev Sofia	30	23	5	2	66	17	74
CSKA	30	20	4	6	60	26	64
Velbazhd	30	17	4	9	52	32	55
Neftohimik	30	14	11	5	42	21	53
Lovech	30	15	4	11	61	34	49
Slavia	30	13	6	11	38	40	45
Spartak Varna	30	12	5	13	42	51	41
Botev	30	12	4	14	43	42	40
Lok Sofia	30	10	9	11	54	37	39
Chernomorets	30	10	7	13	31	40	37
Minjor	30	11	3	16	44	58	36
Dobrudzha	30	10	5	15	30	43	35
Olympic-Beroe	30	10	4	16	28	47	34
Pirin	30	10	3	17	31	50	33
Belasitsa	30	9	6	15	28	57	33
Shumen	30	3	2	25	13	68	11

BULGARIAN CUP – FINAL

May 31
Neftohimik 0
Levski Sofia 2 (G Ivanov 87, B Ivanov 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000

DENMARK

May 21: AGF 2 AB 2; Brondby 1 FC Copenhagen 1; Herfolge 3 OB 3; Lyngby 0 Silkeborg 0; Viborg 7 AaB 2.
May 22: Vejle 2 Esbjerg 1.
May 25: AB 2 Brondby 0; AaB 1 AGF 1; FC Copenhagen 1 Lyngby 2; Silkeborg 1 Herfolge 1; Viborg 3 Vejle 0.
May 26: OB 4 Esbjerg 1.
May 28: AGF 0 Viborg 4; Brondby 1 AaB 0; Esbjerg 0 Silkeborg 3; Herfolge 1 FC Copenhagen 1; Lyngby 0 AB 2; Vejle 0 OB 1.

DENMARK – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Herfolge	33	16	8	9	52	49	56
Brondby	33	15	9	9	56	37	54
AB	33	14	10	9	52	35	52
Viborg	33	15	7	11	56	50	52
AaB	33	12	13	8	57	40	49
Silkeborg	33	13	10	10	49	33	49
Lyngby	33	14	5	14	51	55	47
FC Copenhagen	33	12	8	13	44	37	44
OB	33	11	10	12	42	44	43
AGF	33	9	9	15	36	55	36
Vejle	33	7	11	15	38	68	32
Esbjerg	33	8	4	21	40	70	28

DANISH CUP – FINAL

June 1
AaB 0
Viborg 1 (Eklund 8)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 18,098

GREECE

May 21: Kalamata 5 Aris 2; AEK 2 Trikala 1; OFI 2 Ionikos 0; PAOK 5 Kavala 0; Xanthi 0 Olympiakos 1; Panathinaikos 5 Apollon 0; Panahaiki 2 Paniliakos 0; Ethnikos A 4 Panionios 2; Iraklis 4 Proodeftiki 0.
May 28: AEK 6 Kalamata 1; Aris 3 OFI 1; Trikala 3 PAOK 5; Ionikos 2 Xanthi 1; Kavala 1 Panathinaikos 4; Olympiakos 5 Panahaiki 1; Apollon 0 Ethnikos A 1; Paniliakos 4 Proodeftiki 0; Panionios 2 Iraklis 2.

GREECE – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos	34	30	2	2	86	18	92
Panathinaikos	34	28	4	2	92	24	88
AEK	34	20	6	8	69	39	66
OFI	34	18	9	7	60	44	63
PAOK	34	15	10	9	64	44	55
Aris	34	14	8	12	50	46	50
Iraklis	34	15	5	14	58	58	50
Panionios	34	14	3	17	50	63	45
Kalamata	34	12	8	14	41	57	44
Xanthi	34	11	8	15	36	43	41
Ionikos	34	10	11	13	40	50	41
Ethnikos A	34	12	5	17	33	50	41
Paniliakos	34	12	4	18	44	48	40
Panahaiki	34	9	12	13	37	47	39
Kavala	34	8	6	20	33	66	30
Proodeftiki	34	7	7	20	27	55	28
Apollon	34	6	6	22	30	59	24
Trikala	34	5	6	23	35	74	21

HUNGARY

May 20: Gyor 4 Kispest-Honved 0; Haladas 0 Siofok 1; Vasas 1 Nagykanizsa 4; Pecs 2 Tatabanya 2; Zalaegerszeg 1 Ujpest 1; Vac 0 Debrecen 5; MTK 3 Diosgyor 1; Dunaferr 2 Nyiregyhaza 0.
May 27: Nyiregyhaza 2 Gyor 1; Ujpest 1 Vac 0; Debrecen 3 MTK 1; Tatabanya 2 Zalaegerszeg 1; Nagykanizsa 1 Pecs 1; Siofok 0 Vasas 1; Ferencvaros 6 Haladas 2.

HUNGARY – FINAL*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dunaferr	31	23	7	1	76	23	76
MTK	32	18	9	5	64	28	63
Vasas	32	19	4	9	58	32	61
Tatabanya	32	14	13	5	37	34	55
Ferencvaros	32	14	8	10	61	39	50
Debrecen	32	14	8	10	52	41	50
Pecs	32	11	12	9	41	47	45
Gyor	32	12	8	12	52	36	44
Ujpest	32	11	11	10	47	39	44
Nyiregyhaza	32	12	8	12	32	42	44
Zalaegerszeg	32	8	15	9	34	31	39
Kispest-Honved	32	10	9	13	27	39	39
Nagykanizsa	32	7	10	15	27	44	31
Haladas	32	7	8	17	34	54	29
Siofok**	32	7	7	18	26	51	25
Diosgyor	31	5	9	17	26	53	24
Vac	32	3	6	23	24	85	15

**Pending decision about the outcome of the abandoned match between Diosgyor and Dunaferr.*
***3 pts deducted*

ISRAEL

ISRAEL – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hapoel Tel Aviv	39	26	7	6	76	28	85
Maccabi Haifa	39	22	10	7	86	35	76
H Petach Tikva	39	23	5	11	77	52	74
M Petach Tikva	39	18	7	14	50	46	61
Beitar Jerusalem	39	15	14	10	61	54	59
Maccabi Tel Aviv*	39	18	8	13	66	42	58
Hapoel Haifa	39	13	18	8	53	36	57
Irony Ashdod	39	12	14	13	48	50	50
Hapoel Irony RL	39	10	13	16	41	65	43
Maccabi Netanya	39	10	11	18	53	71	41
Bnei Yehuda	39	9	13	17	37	64	40
Hapoel Kfar-Saba	39	8	14	17	40	56	38
Maccabi Herzliya	39	9	8	22	34	74	35
Hapoel Jerusalem	39	6	6	27	33	82	24

**4pts deducted*

ITALY

FOURTH PLACE PLAY-OFF

May 23 - Verona
Inter 3 (R Baggio 36, 83, Zamorano 90)
Parma 1 (Stanic 70) Att: 25,000
Inter go into the Champions League qualifying stage; Parma into the UEFA Cup

NORWAY

May 21: Bryne 1 Molde 3; Moss 0 Lillestrom 0; Stabaek 7 Brann 1; Start 1 Haugesund 2; Tromso 2 Odd Grenland 0; Valerenga 3 Viking 1.
May 22: Bodo/Glimt 0 Rosenborg 3.

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	10	7	2	1	22	8	23
Brann	10	6	2	2	23	16	20
Molde	10	5	5	0	19	13	20
Stabaek	10	5	2	3	22	9	17
Viking	10	5	2	3	20	14	17
Odd Grenland	10	4	2	4	15	13	14
Moss	10	3	4	3	11	11	13
Bodo/Glimt	9	3	3	3	14	19	12
Tromso	10	3	3	4	15	21	12
Lillestrom	9	2	5	2	10	8	11
Haugesund	10	3	1	6	16	26	10
Valerenga	10	2	3	5	14	16	9
Bryne	10	2	2	6	12	21	8
Start	10	0	2	8	7	25	2

POLAND

May 20: Lech 3 R Radzionkow 1; Widzew 2 Groclin 3; Petro Plock 3 Pogon 1; Odra 3 Halex 1; Legia 0 Polonia 3; Zaglebie 3 Wisla 2; Gornik 3 LKS 1.
May 24: Gornik 4 Lech 0; LKS 4 Zaglebie 2; Wisla 1 Amica 1; R Chorzow 0 Legia 1; Polonia 4 Odra 1; Halex 2 Petro Plock 2; Pogon 2 Widzew 3; Groclin 2 R Radzionkow 1.
May 28: Lech 0 Groclin 0; R Radzionkow 1 Pogon 0; Widzew 2 Halex 2; Petro Plock 2 Polonia 1; Odra 2 R Chorzow 2; Legia 0 Wisla 2; Amica 2 LKS 1; Zaglebie 2 Gornik 1.

POLAND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Polonia	30	20	5	5	56	25	65
Wisla	30	16	8	6	64	38	56
R Chorzow	30	15	10	5	53	32	55
Legia	30	14	10	6	53	34	52
Zaglebie	30	12	9	9	42	37	45
Amica	30	11	11	8	42	37	44
Widzew	30	11	7	12	48	54	40
Odra	30	10	7	13	34	38	37
R Radzionkow	30	11	4	15	38	48	37
Halex	30	8	13	9	33	43	37
Groclin	30	11	3	16	29	46	36
Pogon	30	8	10	12	42	53	34
Petro Plock	30	9	7	14	35	48	34
Gornik	30	8	8	14	42	41	32
LKS	30	7	7	16	28	42	28
Lech	30	6	7	17	34	57	25

POLISH CUP – FINAL

1st leg - June 6
Wisla 2 (Frankowski 44, 74)
Amica 2 (Sobocinski 25, Sokolowski 65)
HT: 1-1

2nd leg - June 9
Amica 3 (Bilinski 8, Zienczuk 45, Sobocinski 84)
Wisla 0
HT: 1-0
Amica 5-2 on agg

PORTUGAL

PORTUGUESE CUP – FINAL

May 21 - Lisbon
Sporting Lisbon 1 (Hilario og 56)
FC Porto 1 (Jardel 3)
Aet. **HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 42,000

REPLAY

May 25 - Lisbon
Sporting Lisbon 0
FC Porto 2 (Clayton 49, Deco 73)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000

RUSSIA

May 22: Zenit 2 Lokomotiv NN 0; Rostselmash 0 Anzhi 1.
May 26: Lokomotiv M 0 Chernomorets 3; Kryliya Sovetov 3 Saturn 2; Spartak 3 Dinamo 1; Fakel 1 Lokomotiv NN 1; Rotor 2 Anzhi 2; Alaniya 1 Zenit 0; Uralan 2 Torpedo 3.
May 27: CSKA 1 Rostselmash 1.
June 8: Anzhi 4 CSKA 1; Lokomotiv NN 0 Rotor 1; Dinamo 2 Fakel 2; Saturn 2 Spartak 0; Chernomorets 3 Kryliya Sovetov 0; Torpedo 1 Lokomotiv M 1; Zenit 3 Uralan 0; Rostselmash 0 Alaniya 1.
June 12: Lokomotiv M 1 Zenit 1; Kryliya Sovetov 3 Torpedo 2; Spartak 3 Chernomorets 1; Fakel 0 Saturn 1; Rotor 2 Dinamo 4; Anzhi 4 Lokomotiv NN 0; Uralan 0 Rostselmash 0.
June 13: CSKA 0 Alaniya 1.
June 19: Lokomotiv NN 1 CSKA 2; Dinamo 2 Anzhi 1; Saturn 2 Rotor 0; Chernomorets 3 Fakel 1; Torpedo 0 Spartak 3; Rostselmash 0 Lokomotiv M 0; Alaniya 1 Uralan 1; Zenit 3 Kryliya Sovetov 0.
June 22: CSKA 0 Uralan 2.
June 23: Lokomotiv M 1 Alaniya 0; Kryliya Sovetov 0 Rostselmash 3; Fakel 1 Torpedo 2; Rotor 1 Chernomorets 1; Spartak 1 Zenit 2; Anzhi 2 Saturn 0; Lokomotiv NN 0 Dinamo 3.

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spartak	14	11	1	2	30	10	34
Anzhi	15	9	2	4	25	11	29
Lokomotiv M	14	8	5	1	15	6	29
Dinamo	14	8	3	3	19	13	27
Chernomorets	14	7	4	3	23	9	25
Torpedo	14	7	4	3	18	13	25
Zenit	15	6	4	5	16	13	22
Saturn	14	6	3	5	13	13	21
Rostselmash	15	3	8	4	10	8	17
Rotor	14	4	4	6	15	26	16
Alaniya	14	4	3	7	11	17	15
Kryliya Sovetov	14	5	0	9	14	25	15
Fakel	14	2	6	6	16	25	12
CSKA	14	3	2	9	10	21	11
Uralan	14	2	4	8	11	19	10
Lokomotiv NN	15	0	5	10	6	23	5

SCOTLAND

SCOTTISH CUP – FINAL

May 27 - Glasgow
Aberdeen 0
Rangers 4 (Van Bronckhorst 35, Vidmar 47, Dodds 49, Albertz 50) Att: 50,865
HT: 0-1

WORLD SERVICE

SLOVAKIA

SLOVAKIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter	30	21	7	2	65	16	70
Kosice	30	19	4	7	57	31	61
Slovan	30	16	9	5	52	18	57
Trnava	30	15	8	7	38	21	53
Trencin	30	13	8	9	38	29	47
Tatran	30	14	5	11	38	41	47
Ruzomberok	30	13	7	10	29	26	46
Zilina	30	12	5	13	39	37	41
Petrzalka	30	11	6	13	43	48	39
Senec	30	9	10	11	33	36	37
Humenne	30	10	7	13	31	43	37
Dubnica	30	9	7	14	25	35	34
Nitra	30	8	4	18	24	44	28
DAC	30	6	9	15	24	42	27
Bystrica	30	7	2	21	27	53	23
Prievidza	30	6	4	20	28	71	22

SLOVAKIAN CUP – FINAL

May 8
Inter 1 (S Nemeth 38)
Kosice 1 (Kozak 50)
Aet. **HT:** 1-0. **90mins:** 1-1. **Att:** 3,150
Inter 4-2 on pens

SPAIN

SPANISH CUP – FINAL

May 27 - Valencia
Espanyol 2 (Tamudo 2, Sergio 85)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Hasselbaink 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 52,000. **Ref:** Lopez Nieto

SWEDEN

May 21: Hacken 2 Elfsborg 3; Sundsvall 3 Vastra Frolunda 2; Orgryte 0 Trelleborgs 2.
May 22: GAIS 1 IFK Gothenburg 1; Hammarby 2 Halmstads 4; Norrkoping 0 Helsingborgs 1; Orebro 1 AIK 0.
May 28: IFK Gothenburg 2 Norrkoping 2; Halmstads 0 Orebro 1; Trelleborgs 1 Hammarby 2.
May 29: Elfsborg 4 Orgryte 1; GAIS 1 AIK 2; Helsingborgs 0 Sundsvall 1.
May 30: Vastra Frolunda 0 Hacken 0.

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Halmstads	8	6	0	2	16	6	18
AIK	8	5	1	2	9	8	16
IFK Gothenburg	8	4	3	1	14	7	15
Helsingborgs	8	4	2	2	10	7	14
Hammarby	8	4	1	3	8	8	13
Orebro	8	3	3	2	14	11	12
Orgryte	8	4	0	4	8	10	12
Norrkoping	8	3	2	3	11	9	11
Sundsvall	8	3	2	3	10	11	11
Trelleborgs	8	3	1	4	7	7	10
Elfsborg	8	3	0	5	11	11	9
Hacken	8	1	3	4	10	16	6
Vastra Frolunda	8	1	2	5	4	14	5
GAIS	8	0	4	4	6	13	4

SWITZERLAND

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

May 20: Grasshopper 1 Neuchatel Xamax 3; Lausanne 2 Yverdon 0.
May 21: Servette 1 Basle 1.
May 23: Neuchatel Xamax 1 Lausanne 2.
May 26: St Gallen 0 Servette 0.
May 27: Basle 0 Lucerne 0; Yverdon 4 Grasshopper 4.
June 2: Grasshopper 3 Basle 0; Lausanne 1 St Gallen 3.
June 3: Lucerne 2 Yverdon 1; Servette 3 Neuchatel Xamax 3.
June 7: Basle 0 Lausanne 3; Neuchatel Xamax 3 Lucerne 1; St Gallen 1 Grasshopper 1; Yverdon 1 Servette 3.

SWITZERLAND – PLAY-OFFS: FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Gallen	14	9	4	1	33	14	54 [23]
Lausanne	14	8	2	4	22	13	44 [18]
Basle	14	5	6	3	16	16	40 [19]
Grasshopper	14	5	5	4	30	26	37 [17]
Servette	14	4	5	5	25	21	31 [14]
Lucerne	14	5	2	7	17	30	31 [14]
Neuchatel Xamax	14	4	3	7	25	29	29 [14]
Yverdon	14	2	1	11	16	35	22 [15]

Teams carried forward half the points won during the first stage (figure in brackets)

SWISS CUP – FINAL

May 28
Zurich 2 (Dzhamarauli 77, Bartlett 95)
Lausanne 2 (Danilevicius 35, Gerber 105)
Aet. **HT:** 0-1. **90mins:** 1-1. **Att:** 18,500
Zurich 3-0 on pens

UKRAINE

May 21: Chornomorets 2 Dynamo 2; Karpaty 1 Metalurh D 1; Metalist 4 Zirka 0; CSKA 3 Tavriya 0; Nyva 1 Dnipro 1; Metalurh M 0 Kryvbas 2; Prykarpattya 0 Vorskla 1; Shakhtar 4 Metalurh Z 0.
May 26: Vorskla 0 Shakhtar 3; Dnipro 1 Metalurh M 0; Tavriya 1 Nyva 1; Zirka 0 CSKA 0; Metalurh D 1 Metalist 1; Chornomorets 0 Karpaty 0.
June 4: Karpaty 2 Dynamo 3; Metalist 1 Chornomorets 1; CSKA 1 Metalurh D 0; Nyva 3 Zirka 0; Metalurh M 4 Tavriya 1; Prykarpattya 1 Dnipro 1; Shakhtar 3 Kryvbas 1; Metalurh Z 3 Vorskla 1.
June 8: Dynamo 3 Vorskla 0; Kryvbas 1 Metalurh Z 0; Dnipro 1 Shakhtar 2; Tavriya 1 Prykarpattya 0; Zirka 1 Metalurh M 2; Metalurh D 3 Nyva 2; Chornomorets 2 CSKA 0; Karpaty 1 Metalist 1.
June 12: Metalurh Z 0 Dynamo 3; Kryvbas 3 Prykarpattya 0.
June 16: Metalist 0 Dynamo 5; CSKA 2 Karpaty 3; Nyva 3 Chornomorets 1; Metalurh M 4 Metalurh D 1; Prykarpattya 4 Zirka 2; Shakhtar 2 Tavriya 0; Metalurh Z 6 Dnipro 1; Vorskla 3 Kryvbas 0.
June 20: Dynamo 2 Kryvbas 1; Dnipro 2 Vorskla 1; Tavriya 1 Metalurh Z 2; Zirka 2 Shakhtar 6; Metalurh D 4 Prykarpattya 1; Chornomorets 3 Metalurh M 4; Karpaty 0 Nyva 1; Metalist 2 CSKA 0.

UKRAINE – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo	30	27	3	0	85	18	84
Shakhtar	30	21	3	6	60	16	66
Kryvbas	30	18	6	6	54	30	60
Vorskla	30	14	7	9	50	34	49
Metalurh Z	30	12	8	10	43	35	44
Metalist	30	12	8	10	41	39	44
Metalurh D	30	11	10	9	39	35	43
Metalurh M	30	13	3	14	49	48	42
Karpaty	30	12	4	14	39	38	40
CSKA	30	9	8	13	31	36	35
Dnipro	30	8	9	13	28	52	33
Nyva	30	7	10	13	40	57	31
Tavriya	30	7	8	15	32	51	29
Prykarpattya	30	7	8	15	27	47	29
Chornomorets	30	6	8	16	20	52	26
Zirka	30	0	9	21	16	66	9

UKRAINIAN CUP – FINAL

May 27
Dynamo 1 (Khatskevich 45)
Kryvbas 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000

SOUTH AMERICA

LIBERTADORES CUP

QUARTER-FINALS – 2ND LEGS

May 23
Corinthians (Bra) 2 (Edilson 8, Ricardinho 20)
Atletico Mineiro (Bra) 1 (Guilherme pen 67)
Corinthians 3-2 on agg

May 24
Boca Juniors (Arg) 3 (Delgado 59, Riquelme pen 84, Palermo 90)
River Plate (Arg) 0
Boca Juniors 4-2 on agg

May 25
Bolivar (Bol) 1 (Garcia 90)
America (Mex) 2 (Salgado 6, Calderon 46)
America 4-1 on agg

Palmeiras (Bra) 3 (Rogerio 16, Ramos 66, Taddei 85)
Atlas (Mex) 2 (Zepeda 65, Briseno 69)
Palmeiras 5-2 on agg

SEMI-FINALS – 1ST LEGS

May 30
Corinthians 4 (Ricarinho 15, Argel og 45, Edilson 56, Roque Junior og 90)
Palmeiras 3 (Junior 39, Alex 75, Fabio Luciano og 83)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Pereira (Bra)

May 31
Boca Juniors 4 (Arruabarrena 9, Barijho 11, 51, Marchant 21)
America 1 (Silva 73)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Sanchez (Chl)

2ND LEGS

June 6
Palmeiras 3 (Euller 34, Alex 61, Galeano 72)
Corinthians 2 (Luizao 38, 52)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 72,000. **Ref:** Pereira (Bra)
Agg 6-6. Palmeiras 5-4 on pens

June 7
America 3 (Calderon 11, 81, Estay 68)
Boca Juniors 1 (Samuel 83)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 110,000. **Ref:** Ruiz (Col)
Boca Juniors 5-4 on agg

FINAL – 1ST LEG

June 14 - Buenos Aires
Boca Juniors 2 (Arruabarrena 21, 51)
Palmeiras 2 (Pena 28, Euller 73)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 58,000. **Ref:** Mendez (Uru)
Boca Juniors: O Cordoba - Ibarra, Bermudez, Samuel, Arruabarrena - Battaglia, Traverso, Gustavo Barros Schelotto (La Paglia 77) - Riquelme - C Gimenez (Guillermo Barros Schelotto 46), Barijho (Palermo 46).
Palmeiras: Marcos - Nenem, Argel, Roque Junior, Junior - Rogerio, Cesar Sampaio, Galeano - Alex (Tiago 90) - Pena (Marcelo Ramos 72), Euller (F Asprilla 87).

2ND LEG

June 21 - Sao Paulo
Palmeiras 0
Boca Juniors 0
Att: 72,000. **Ref:** Gonzalez (Par)
Agg 2-2. Boca 4-2 on pens
Palmeiras: Marcos - Rogerio, Argel, Roque Junior, Junior - Cesar Sampaio, Galeano - Alex - Marcelo Ramos (F Asprilla 36), Pena (Basilio 61), Euller.
Boca Juniors: O Cordoba - Ibarra, Bermudez, Samuel, Arruabarrena - Battaglia, Traverso, J Basualdo - Riquelme - Guillermo Barros Schelotto, Palermo.

ARGENTINA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Friday, May 19

San Lorenzo 3 (Romeo 64, 84, Brown og 90)
Estudiantes 0

Saturday, May 20

Newell's Old Boys 2 (Paris 4, Manso 81)
River Plate 4 (Yepes 16, Cardetti 20, Aimar 48, Cuevas 90)

Sunday, May 21

Boca Juniors 2 (Navas 48, Barijho 70)
Rosario Central 0

Chacarita Juniors 2 (Garcia 10, Carrario 14)
Independiente 2 (Marioni 87, Lopez 90)

Gimnasia LP 1 (Alonso 9)
Velez Sarsfield 1 (Obolo 82)

Instituto Cordoba 3 (Jimenez 6, 22, Sarria 64)
Colon Santa Fe 2 (Fuertes pen 71, Medero 77)

Racing Club 0
Lanus 3 (Vilallonga 42, 76, Klimowicz 64)

Talleres Cordoba 0
Argentinos Juniors 0

Union Santa Fe 2 (Tilger 20, Pratola 81)
Gimnasia J 0

Monday, May 22

Ferro Carril Oeste 1 (Chaparro 57)
Belgrano Cordoba 5 (Lujambio 36, 77, Torres 39, Medina 43, Solana 83)

Friday, May 26

Independiente 2 (Cambiasso 10, Graf 80)
Ferro Carril Oeste 0

Sunday, May 28

Argentinos Juniors 2 (Zagharian 36, Osorio 51)
Racing Club 1 (Liendo 90)

Belgrano Cordoba 1 (Luis Fernando 68)
San Lorenzo 2 (Franco 16, Romeo 34)

Colon Santa Fe 0
Rosario Central 2 (Maceratesi 83, Moreno y Fabianesi 86)

Gimnasia J 0
Gimnasia LP 1 (Alonso 63)

Lanus 3 (Alessandria 20, Kmet 78, Klimowicz 90)
Chacarita Juniors 0

River Plate 1 (Zapata 59)
Union Santa Fe 2 (Jayo 45, Cabrol 65)

Velez Sarsfield 0
Talleres Cordoba 0

Monday, May 29

Estudiantes 1 (Agoglia 7)
Instituto Cordoba 1 (Jimenez pen 45)

Saturday, June 3

Newell's Old Boys 1 (Manso 53)
Boca Juniors 0
(Continuation of game started on May 27)

Saturday, June 10

Union Santa Fe 1 (Cabrol 69)
Newell's Old Boys 0

Sunday, June 11

Boca Juniors 3 (Guillermo Barros Schelotto 59, Palermo 63, 78)
Colon Santa Fe 2 (Fuertes pen 6, Riccheti 65)

Chacarita Juniors 1 (Garcia 13)
Argentinos Juniors 1 (Osorio 53)

Ferro Carril Oeste 0
Lanus 7 (Klimowicz 3, 65, Coria 33, 73, Alvarez pen 60, Coyete 79, S Gonzalez 88)

Gimnasia LP 0
River Plate 4 (Angel 9, 48, Saviola 11, Aimar 45)

Instituto Cordoba 2 (Bujan 12, Jimenez 44)
Belgrano Cordoba 0

Racing Club 2 (Cordone 11, Chatruc 90)
Velez Sarsfield 2 (F Dominguez 16, Castroman 59)

Rosario Central 0
Estudiantes 1 (Farias 50)

San Lorenzo 1 (Moreno 80)
Independiente 2 (Marioni 70, Forlan 90)

Monday, June 12

Talleres Cordoba 2 (Oliva 37, Maidana 47)
Gimnasia J 1 (Gonzalez 89)

Friday, June 16

Independiente 3 (D Montenegro 34, Graf 44, Cambiasso 81)
Instituto Cordoba 2 (Sarria 2, 56)

Saturday, June 17

Gimnasia J 1 (Comelles 69)
Racing Club 2 (Peralta 52, Chatruc 74)

Sunday, June 18

Argentinos Juniors 1 (Insua 50)
Ferro Carril Oeste 0

Estudiantes 0
Colon Santa Fe 0

Lanus 0
San Lorenzo 1 (Moreno 33)

Newell's Old Boys 0
Gimnasia LP 0

River Plate 2 (Berizzo 29, Placente 52)
Talleres Cordoba 0

Velez Sarsfield 2 (Schiavi og 21, Dudar 67)
Chacarita Juniors 0

Monday, June 19

Belgrano Cordoba 1 (Medina 62)
Rosario Central 2 (E Gonzalez 38, Canals 86)

Friday, June 23

San Lorenzo 3 (Tuzzio 28, Franco 42, 47)
Argentinos Juniors 2 (Zagharian 36, Sanchez 76)

Saturday, June 24

Colon Santa Fe 2 (Fuertes 28, Castagno Suarez 52)
Belgrano Cordoba 0

Ferro Carril Oeste 0
Velez Sarsfield 1 (Chilavert pen 47)

Gimnasia LP 2 (Messera 55, Norberto Fernandez og 74)
Union Santa Fe 3 (Domizi 37, M Donnet 50, Silvera 67)

Instituto Cordoba 2 (Jimenez pen 17, Alessandria og 52)
Lanus 0

Rosario Central 0
Independiente 3 (Marioni 22, D Montenegro 52, Graf 88)

Talleres Cordoba 1 (Pronetto 32)
Newell's Old Boys 3 (Saldana 12, Mateo 23, Quintana 90)

ARGENTINA – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Independiente	16	10	2	4	37	20	32
River Plate	15	9	5	1	32	15	32
San Lorenzo	16	10	2	4	22	11	32
Union Santa Fe	15	9	2	4	24	22	29
Colon Santa Fe	16	8	3	5	31	24	27
Velez Sarsfield	16	6	7	3	23	16	25
Newell's Old Boys	16	7	4	5	27	21	25
Boca Juniors*	14	7	5	2	23	10	23
Instituto Cordoba	16	6	5	5	24	24	23
Gimnasia LP	16	6	4	6	25	30	22
Rosario Central	16	5	5	6	21	22	20
Talleres Cordoba	16	5	5	6	14	19	20
Lanus*	16	6	4	6	30	19	19
Belgrano Cordoba	16	5	4	7	24	23	19
Argentinos Juniors	16	4	5	7	19	31	17
Estudiantes	15	3	6	6	19	24	15
Chacarita Juniors	15	3	5	7	15	23	14
Racing Club	15	2	6	7	16	24	12
Gimnasia J	15	2	2	11	12	28	8
Ferro Carril Oeste	16	2	1	13	9	41	7

**3 pts deducted*

LEADING GOALSCORERS

11 Esteban Fuertes (Colon Santa Fe)
10 Daniel Jimenez (Instituto Cordoba)
9 Diego Klimowicz (Lanus)

BOLIVIA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

May 17: Atletico Pompeya 1 The Strongest 0; Blooming 9 Real Potosi 1; Guabira 3 Mariscal Braun 2.
May 18: Santa Cruz 2 Jorge Wilstermann 2; Union Central 0 Independiente 0.
May 20: Mariscal Braun 2 Bolivar 1; Oriente 3 Atletico Pompeya 1.
May 21: The Strongest 3 Blooming 1; Real Potosi 1 Union Central 0; Santa Cruz 1 Guabira 2; Jorge Wilstermann 4 Independiente 0.
May 24: Atletico Pompeya 0 Mariscal Braun 1; Blooming 0 Oriente 0; Guabira 1 Jorge Wilstermann 0; Union Central 2 The Strongest 1.
May 28: Blooming 1 The Strongest 3; Jorge Wilstermann 2 Bolivar 1; Independiente 3 Real Potosi 0.
June 7: The Strongest 4 Real Potosi 1.
June 8: Bolivar 3 Union Central 2.
June 10: Mariscal Braun 4 Blooming 0; Santa Cruz 3 Atletico Pompeya 0.
June 11: The Strongest 1 Independiente 2; Guabira 1 Bolivar 2; Oriente 0 Union Central 0; Jorge Wilstermann 1 Real Potosi 0.

BOLIVIA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
J Wilstermann	19	12	2	5	33	19	38
Guabira	19	10	2	7	32	32	32
The Strongest	19	9	3	7	43	24	30
Oriente	18	7	9	2	30	18	30
Mariscal Braun	19	9	2	8	33	32	29
Blooming	19	8	4	7	31	30	28
Independiente	19	8	3	8	29	24	27
Real Potosi	18	9	0	9	25	35	27
Bolivar	16	8	1	7	31	31	25
Atletico Pompeya	19	5	4	10	23	42	19
Santa Cruz	18	4	4	10	25	37	16
Union Central	19	2	6	11	16	27	12

BRAZIL

RIO (CARIOCA) STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Second stage

May 20: Flamengo 1 Americano 2.
May 21: Vasco da Gama 0 Fluminense 1; Bangu 1 Olaria 1; Friburguense 1 America 1; Botafogo 3 Madureira 0.
May 27: Fluminense 2 Olaria 1.
May 28: Vasco da Gama 3 Flamengo 3; Madureira 0 Friburguense 0; America 3 Bangu 5; Botafogo 2 Americano 0.
June 3: Flamengo 3 Bangu 0; Olaria 2 America 0; Madureira 1 Americano 0.
June 4: Botafogo 3 Fluminense 1; Vasco da Gama 1 Friburguense 0.
June 7: Friburguense 1 Flamengo 3; Botafogo 1 Vasco da Gama 1; Fluminense 2 America 3; Madureira 1 Olaria 2; Americano 3 Bangu 2.

RIO STATE – 2ND STAGE: FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Flamengo	9	7	1	1	25	12	22
Vasco da Gama	9	5	2	2	21	10	17
Botafogo	9	5	2	2	17	10	17
Fluminense	9	5	1	3	17	16	16
Bangu	9	2	4	3	13	16	10
Americano	9	3	1	5	10	13	10
Olaria	9	3	1	5	12	18	10
Friburguense	9	2	3	4	9	13	9
America	9	2	3	4	12	17	9
Madureira	9	1	2	6	5	16	5

Flamengo qualified to play Vasco (First Stage winners) for the overall title

Championship play-off

June 11: Flamengo 3 Vasco da Gama 0.
June 17: Vasco da Gama 1 Flamengo 2
Flamengo 5-1 on agg.

SAO PAULO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Third stage

May 20: Santos 3 Portuguesa 0; Sao Paulo 3 Guarani 0.
May 21: Ponte Preta 2 Rio Branco 1; Palmeiras 2 Corinthians 4.

GROUP 7 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Santos	6	4	1	1	9	5	13
Sao Paulo	6	3	2	1	13	7	11
Portuguesa	6	2	1	3	10	11	7
Guarani	6	1	0	5	5	14	3

GROUP 8 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Corinthians	6	3	3	0	16	10	12
Palmeiras	6	3	2	1	14	11	11
Ponte Preta	6	2	0	4	9	14	6
Rio Branco	6	0	3	3	6	10	3

Semi-finals

1st legs
May 27: Santos 0 Palmeiras 0.
May 28: Sao Paulo 2 Corinthians 1.

2nd legs
June 3: Palmeiras 2 Santos 3
Santos 3-2 on agg;
Corinthians 0 Sao Paulo 2
Sao Paulo 4-1 on agg.

Final

June 10: Santos 0 Sao Paulo 1.
June 18: Sao Paulo 2 Santos 2
Sao Paulo 3-2 on agg.

CHILE

May 20: Cobreloa 2 Everton 0; Dep Concepcion 1 Santiago Morning 1; Union Espanola 1 Huachipato 0; Santiago Wanderers 1 Colo Colo 1.
May 21: U de Chile 2 O'Higgins 0; Audax Italiano 2 Provincial Osorno 0; Puerto Montt 1 Palestino 1; Coquimbo Unido 0 U Catolica 2.
May 24: Huachipato 1 U de Chile 2; U Catolica 3 Santiago Wanderers 0; Colo Colo 1 Audax Italiano 0; O'Higgins 2 Cobreloa 1; Coquimbo Unido 3 Puerto Montt 2.
May 25: Provincial Osorno 0 Dep Concepcion 1; Santiago Morning 0 Union Espanola 0.
May 27: Everton 0 Palestino 2.
June 10: Dep Concepcion 1 Colo Colo 2; Cobreloa 3 Huachipato 2; Palestino 1 O'Higgins 2; Union Espanola 5 Provincial Osorno 1.
June 11: Audax Italiano 1 U Catolica 2; U de Chile 2 Santiago Morning 1; Santiago Wanderers 3 Coquimbo Unido 0; Puerto Montt 4 Everton 3.

CHILE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U Catolica	7	6	0	1	18	7	18
Colo Colo	7	4	3	0	14	9	15
Union Espanola	7	4	2	1	14	6	14
Cobreloa	7	4	2	1	10	5	14
Dep Concepcion	7	4	2	1	6	3	14
U de Chile	7	4	1	2	11	6	13
Audax Italiano	7	4	0	3	8	5	12
Sant Wanderers	7	2	4	1	11	8	10
Coquimbo Unido	7	3	1	3	10	13	10
Sant Morning	7	2	3	2	8	7	9
Palestino	7	2	2	3	8	10	8
O'Higgins	7	2	1	4	5	9	7
Puerto Montt	7	1	3	3	9	15	6
Everton	7	0	2	5	5	15	2
Huachipato	7	0	1	6	6	13	1
Prov Osorno	7	0	1	6	5	17	1

COLOMBIA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

May 20: Envigado 3 Bucaramanga 0.
May 21: At Nacional 3 Quindio 0; America 6 At Huila 0; Tolima 1 Once Caldas 0; Tulua 2 Dep Cali 2; At Junior 1 Real Cartagena 1; Indep Santa Fe 3 Indep Medellin 1.
May 28: Real Cartagena 2 Indep Santa Fe 0; At Huila 2 At Nacional 2; Dep Cali 5 Tolima 2.
May 31: Quindio 4 Dep Pasto 2; Bucaramanga 1 Once Caldas 1; Millonarios 2 At Junior 0; Envigado 1 America 3.
June 7: America 1 Bucaramanga 0; At Nacional 1 Envigado 3; Dep Pasto 2 At Huila 2; At Junior 2 Quindio 1; Tulua 2 Real Cartagena 0; Tolima 1 Indep Medellin 3; Once Caldas 0 Dep Cali 0.
June 8: Indep Santa Fe 0 Millonarios 0.
June 10: Envigado 3 Dep Pasto 1.
June 11: Bucaramanga 1 Dep Cali 2; Quindio 3 Indep Santa Fe 1; Millonarios 3 Tulua 1; At Huila 2 At Junior 1; Indep Medellin 1 Once Caldas 1; Real Cartagena 2 Tolima 0; America 0 At Nacional 1.

COLOMBIA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	19	10	4	5	35	16	34
Dep Cali	19	9	7	3	33	20	34
Envigado	19	8	7	4	29	20	31
Millonarios	18	8	6	4	28	22	30
At Nacional	19	8	5	6	31	26	29
Tolima	19	9	2	8	31	27	29
At Huila	19	6	8	5	21	25	26
At Junior	19	7	4	8	29	26	25
Real Cartagena	19	7	4	8	18	19	25
Indep Santa Fe	19	6	6	7	26	29	24
Once Caldas	19	6	6	7	21	28	24
Tulua	18	6	4	8	26	30	22
Indep Medellin	18	5	6	7	22	28	21
Quindio	19	5	5	9	22	33	20
Bucaramanga	19	5	4	10	14	23	19
Dep Pasto	18	5	2	11	22	36	17

ECUADOR

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

May 20: Tecnico Univ 1 Aucas 0; Dep Quito 5 Macara 0; Emelec 4 El Nacional 0; Espoli 0 Barcelona 0; Olmedo 1 LDU 0.
May 26: LDU 4 Emelec 1.
May 27: El Nacional 4 Espoli 2; Aucas 1 Olmedo 1.
May 28: Macara 4 Tecnico Univ 2; Barcelona 2 Dep Quito 2.
June 11: Emelec 1 Espoli 1; Dep Quito 2 El Nacional 0; LDU 2 Aucas 1; Tecnico Univ 1 Barcelona 0; Olmedo 0 Macara 0.

ECUADOR – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aucas	15	7	4	4	15	13	25
LDU	15	6	6	3	27	20	24
Olmedo	15	6	6	3	14	10	24
El Nacional	15	5	6	4	25	22	21
Emelec	15	6	3	6	19	16	21
Espoli	15	5	6	4	17	17	21
Macara	15	4	6	5	20	24	18
Dep Quito	15	3	7	5	20	19	16
Tecnico Univ	15	3	5	7	19	26	14
Barcelona	15	2	7	6	13	22	13

PARAGUAY

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

May 21: Cerro Cora 1 Olimpia 2; 12 de Octubre 1 Cerro Porteno 0; Universal 0 Colegiales 3; San Lorenzo 1 Sportivo Luqueno 1; Sol de America 3 Guarani 3.
May 28: Olimpia 1 Colegiales 0; San Lorenzo 1 12 de Octubre 2; Sol de America 1 Cerro Porteno 0; Guarani 0 Cerro Cora 0; Universal 3 Sportivo Luqueno 4.
June 11: Colegiales 1 12 de Octubre 2; Cerro Porteno 2 Universal 1; Sol de America 1 San Lorenzo 0; Guarani 2 Olimpia 3; Sportivo Luqueno 4 Cerro Cora 3.
June 18: Universal 1 San Lorenzo 2; Cerro Cora 1 Cerro Porteno 0; 12 de Octubre 2 Sol de America 0; Colegiales 0 Guarani 3; Olimpia 2 Sportivo Luqueno 2.

PARAGUAY – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olimpia	15	11	4	0	37	15	37
Sol de America	15	8	3	4	22	18	27
Guarani	15	7	5	3	25	13	26
12 de Octubre	15	7	2	6	18	20	23
Cerro Porteno	15	5	5	5	18	15	20
San Lorenzo	15	5	5	5	13	15	20
Sportivo Luqueno	15	5	4	6	22	28	19
Colegiales	15	5	2	8	18	21	17
Cerro Cora	15	4	2	9	14	23	14
Universal	15	1	2	12	15	33	5

PERU

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

May 20: Universitario 2 Alianza Lima 0.
May 21: Melgar 1 Union Minas 0; Sporting Cristal 8 UPAO 3; Juan Aurich 1 Dep Municipal 0; Dep Pesquero 0 Sport Boys 1; Alianza Atletico 3 Cienciano 2.
May 27: Alianza Lima 3 Juan Aurich 1; Sport Boys 2 Cienciano 3; Dep Municipal 3 Dep Pesquero 1;

Union Minas 2 Alianza Atletico 0; Sporting Cristal 0 Melgar 0; UPAO 0 Universitario 0.
June 11: Sport Boys 1 Alianza Atletico 1; Union Minas 4 Sporting Cristal 1; Melgar 2 Alianza Lima 0; Dep Municipal 2 UPAO 0; Cienciano 1 Juan Aurich 0; Dep Pesquero 1 Universitario 0.

PERU – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Universitario	18	10	6	2	32	17	36
Melgar	18	10	3	5	37	23	33
Union Minas	18	9	2	7	24	19	29
Cienciano	18	8	5	5	28	26	29
Alianza Lima	18	8	5	5	20	19	29
Sport Boys	18	7	6	5	23	21	27
Sporting Cristal	18	6	6	6	35	26	24
Alianza Atletico	18	7	3	8	25	25	24
Juan Aurich	18	3	9	6	19	25	18
Dep UPAO	18	4	6	8	22	31	18
Dep Pesquero	18	4	5	9	16	28	17
Dep Municipal	18	2	4	12	20	41	10

URUGUAY

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

May 19: Cerro 1 River Plate 1.
May 20: Bella Vista P 0 Nacional 1; Juventud 2 Penarol 2; Liverpool 0 Frontera Rivera 1; Danubio 1 Dep Maldonado 0; Racing 1 Defensor 3; Tacuarembo 1 Bella Vista M 0; Rocha 1 Rentistas 2; Villa Espanola 1 Huracan Buceo 2.
May 27: Racing 0 Penarol 1; Dep Maldonado 2 Defensor 3; Villa Espanola 1 Nacional 2; Liverpool 2 Bella Vista P 1; Rentistas 2 Frontera Rivera 2; Huracan Buceo 1 Cerro 3; Tacuarembo 3 River Plate 3; Rocha 1 Juventud 1.
May 30: Bella Vista M 0 Danubio 2.
June 4: Nacional 4 Tacuarembo 2; Rentistas 1 Penarol 5; Dep Maldonado 3 Racing 2; Cerro 1 Juventud 0; River Plate 1 Bella Vista P 1; Liverpool 1 Defensor 2; Huracan Buceo 1 Rocha 2.
June 9: Liverpool 0 Tacuarembo 0.
June 10: Rentistas 2 Juventud 1; Villa Espanola 2 Danubio 5; Dep Maldonado 1 Bella Vista P 2; Penarol 0 Nacional 1; Defensor 2 Huracan Buceo 1; River Plate 1 Rocha 2; Frontera Rivera 2 Cerro 4; Racing 1 Bella Vista M 0.

URUGUAY – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional	15	13	2	0	36	10	41
Danubio	15	10	3	2	39	17	33
Defensor	15	9	3	3	37	21	30
Penarol	15	9	3	3	34	23	30
Rentistas	15	7	4	4	26	20	25
Cerro	15	7	3	5	32	27	24
Tacuarembo	15	5	6	4	20	22	21
Dep Maldonado	15	7	0	8	25	30	21
River Plate	15	4	6	5	25	23	18
Racing	15	5	3	7	22	27	18
Bella Vista M	15	4	5	6	21	24	17
Bella Vista P	15	5	1	9	18	22	16
Rocha	15	4	4	7	26	37	16
Juventud	15	3	6	6	11	18	15
Liverpool	15	4	3	8	16	25	15
Huracan Buceo	15	3	3	9	18	29	12
Frontera Rivera	15	3	3	9	23	36	12
Villa Espanola	15	2	4	9	19	37	10

VENEZUELA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Apr 19: Estudiantes 2 Mineros Guayana 1; Llaneros 5 Nacional 1; Caracas 3 Ital-Chacao 0; Dep Tachira 3 FCU-ULA 0; Trujillanos 0 Inter El Vigia 0.
May 3: Dep Tachira 5 Zulianos 2; Caracas 5 Trujillanos 1; Llaneros 1 Inter El Vigia 1; Estudiantes 4 FCU-ULA 2; Carabobo 2 Ital-Chacao 1; Mineros Guayana 1 Nacional 0.

VENEZUELA – CLOSING: FINAL*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep Tachira	22	14	6	2	40	13	48
Ital-Chacao	22	13	4	5	35	18	43
Caracas	22	12	6	4	38	19	42
Carabobo	21	10	6	5	24	15	36
Estudiantes	22	10	4	8	30	29	34
FCU-ULA	22	9	2	11	28	26	29
Mineros Guayana	22	7	4	11	26	33	25
Zulianos	21	5	8	8	24	33	23
Inter El Vigia	22	5	6	11	25	36	21
Llaneros	22	5	6	11	25	45	21
Nacional	22	4	8	10	17	31	20
Trujillanos	22	4	6	12	21	35	18

**Pending result of remaining Carabobo-Zulianos game*

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

May 14: Dep Tachira 1 Estudiantes 0; Caracas 0 Ital-Chacao 0.
May 17: Ital-Chacao 0 Dep Tachira 1; Estudiantes 2 Caracas 2.
May 21: Dep Tachira 2 Caracas 1; Ital-Chacao 2 Estudiantes 1.
June 11: Estudiantes 1 Dep Tachira 0; Ital-Chacao 1 Caracas 1.
June 18: Estudiantes 0 Ital-Chacao 0; Caracas 0 Dep Tachira 0.

VENEZUELA – PLAY-OFFS*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep Tachira**	5	3	1	1	4	2	12
Ital-Chacao	5	1	3	1	3	3	6
Estudiantes	5	1	2	2	4	5	5
Caracas	5	0	4	1	4	5	4

**Top four from aggregate opening/closing table qualified.*
**Dep Tachira were awarded 2 bonus points for winning the opening and closing championships*

CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

MEXICO

SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP – QUARTER-FINALS

2nd legs
May 20: Toluca 7 Puebla 0
Toluca 9-0 on agg.
May 21: Pumas UNAM 2 Necaxa 1
Pumas 6-4 on agg;
Santos 0 Atletico Morelia 1
Agg 3-3. Santos on away goals;
Guadalajara 1 Atlas 1
Agg 2-2

SEMI-FINALS

1st legs
May 24: Guadalajara 1 Toluca 4.
May 25: Pumas UNAM 1 Santos 1.

2nd legs
May 27: Toluca 2 Guadalajara 2
Toluca 6-3 on agg.
May 28: Santos 1 Pumas UNAM 0
Santos 2-1 on agg.

FINAL

1st leg - May 31
Santos 0
Toluca 2 (Ruiz 22, Morales 52)

2nd leg - June 3
Toluca 5 (Morales pen 15, Cardozo 60, 76, Garcia 86, Martinez 88)
Santos 1 (Romero 32)
Toluca 7-1 on agg

USA

May 20: MetroStars 3 Tampa Bay Mutiny 2 (aet); Miami Fusion 2 Colorado Rapids 0; Columbus Crew 2 Dallas Burn 1; Kansas City Wizards 2 San Jose Earthquakes 0; Chicago Fire 0 New England Revolution 1; LA Galaxy 2 DC United 1.
May 24: New England Revolution 2 LA Galaxy 1; Chicago Fire 4 Dallas Burn 3.
May 27: Tampa Bay Mutiny 1 Kansas City Wizards 2; MetroStars 4 Chicago Fire 1; DC United 3 Dallas Burn 2; Miami Fusion 2 Columbus Crew 4; LA Galaxy 1 San Jose Earthquakes 1 (aet).
May 29: Colorado Rapids 2 New England Revolution 1.
June 3: San Jose Earthquakes 4 Colorado Rapids 2; Columbus Crew 1 DC United 1 (aet); New England Revolution 2 Miami Fusion 0; Dallas Burn 2 Tampa Bay Mutiny 3; LA Galaxy 0 MetroStars 2.
June 4: Chicago Fire 3 Kansas City Wizards 2.
June 7: Dallas Burn 3 Columbus Crew 2; Chicago Fire 2 Miami Fusion 1.
June 9: MetroStars 0 Tampa Bay Mutiny 3.
June 10: Columbus Crew 1 Dallas Burn 1 (aet); New England Revolution 3 San Jose Earthquakes 0; DC United 0 Kansas City Wizards 0 (aet); Miami Fusion 4 Chicago Fire 2; Colorado Rapids 1 LA Galaxy 0 (aet).
June 17: MetroStars 4 New England Revolution 2; Chicago Fire 3 DC United 2; Dallas Burn 4 Kansas City Wizards 1; Colorado Rapids 0 Columbus Crew 0 (aet); LA Galaxy 2 Tampa Bay Mutiny 1; San Jose Earthquakes 3 Miami Fusion 1.
June 21: Tampa Bay Mutiny 1 Miami Fusion 4; MetroStars 2 DC United 2 (aet); Kansas City Wizards 0 Dallas Burn 0 (aet); San Jose Earthquakes 2 New England Revolution 2 (aet); LA Galaxy 1 Chicago Fire 1 (aet).
June 24: Colorado Rapids 1 MetroStars 3; DC United 2 Dallas Burn 0; Miami Fusion 2 Tampa Bay Mutiny 3; Columbus Crew 3 New England Revolution 1; Kansas City Wizards 2 LA Galaxy 0; San Jose Earthquakes 1 Chicago Fire 1 (aet).
June 28: MetroStars 0 San Jose Earthquakes 0 (aet); DC United 1 LA Galaxy 2; Columbus Crew 1 Tampa Bay Mutiny 2; Colorado Rapids 1 Dallas Burn 0.

EASTERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MetroStars	17	8	2	7	28	26	26
New England	18	7	5	6	30	27	26
Miami Fusion	18	6	4	8	24	27	22
DC United	19	4	4	11	29	38	16

CENTRAL DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tampa Bay	18	10	0	8	37	29	30
Chicago Fire	19	9	3	7	41	35	30
Columbus Crew	18	6	4	8	26	32	22
Dallas Burn	19	6	3	10	28	35	21

WESTERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kansas City	17	11	4	2	30	12	37
LA Galaxy	19	8	7	4	25	19	31
Colorado Rapids	18	8	1	9	24	37	25
San Jose	18	4	7	7	23	28	19

LEADING GOALSCORERS

16	Mamadou Diallo (Tampa Bay Mutiny)
11	Ante Razov (Chicago Fire)
9	Jason Kreis (Dallas Burn)
9	Jaime Moreno (DC United)
9	Adolfo Valencia (MetroStars)
9	Dante Washington (Columbus Crew)

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

SECOND ROUND

2nd legs
May 28: Jeanne d'Arc (Sen) 1 Raja Casablanca (Mor) 0
Agg 2-2. Jeanne d'Arc on away goals;
Vital'O (Brd) 2 Al Ahly (Egy) 1
Al Ahly 4-2 on agg;
Djoliba (Mli) 1 Esperance (Tun) 1
Esperance 4-3 on agg;
Primeiro Agosto (Ang) 0 Lobi Stars (Nig) 1
Lobi Stars 2-1 on agg;
Motema Pembe (DRC) 2 Hearts of Oak (Gha) 0
Hearts of Oak 4-3 on agg;
Sable Batie (Cam) 3 Highlanders (Zim) 0
Agg 3-3. Sable Batie 4-3 on pens;
Mamelodi Sundowns (SAf) 0 Nkana FC (Zam) 0
Agg 1-1. Mamelodi Sundowns on away goals;
Ferroviario Maputo (Moz) 1 Africa Sports (IvC) 2
Africa Sports 7-1 on agg.

CUP-WINNERS CUP

SECOND ROUND

2nd legs
May 27: Rayon Sports (Rwa) 2 Royal Armed Forces (Mor) 1
Agg 2-2. Royal Armed Forces on away goals;
Stade Malien (Mli) 0 JS Tenere (Nig) 1
JS Tenere 2-1 on agg;
St Louisienne (Reu) 2 Al Merreikh (Sud) 1
St Louisienne 4-1 on agg.
May 28: Ethiopian Coffee (Eth) 2 Zamalek (Egy) 1
Agg 3-3. Zamalek 4-2 on pens;
Etoile du Congo (Con) 2 Club Africain (Tun) 0
Agg 4-4. Etoile du Congo on away goals;
Zamsure (Zam) 0 Canon Yaounde (Cam) 1
Canon Yaounde 5-1 on agg;
SuperSport United (SAf) 1 Al Ittihad (Lby) 0
Al Ittihad 2-1 on agg;
Sagrada Esperanca (Ang) 1 Ndiambour (Sen) 1
Agg 1-1. Ndiambour on away goals.

CAF CUP

SECOND ROUND

2nd legs
May 26: CA Bizerte (Tun) 4 Stade Abidjan (IvC) 1
Agg 4-4. Stade Abidjan on away goals.
May 27: Compagnie Sucriere (Sen) 2 Etoile Sahel (Tun) 1
Etoile Sahel 4-2 on agg.
May 28: Cotonsport (Cam) 2 Mtibawa (Tan) 0
Cotonsport 3-0 on agg;
Iwuanyanwu Nationale (Nig) 2 Awassa City (Eth) 1
Iwuanyanwu 3-2 on agg;
TP Mazembe (DRC) 2 JS Kabylie (Alg) 0
JS Kabylie 5-2 on agg;
Cape Coast Dwarfs (Gha) 2 Wydad Casablanca (Mor) 0
Cape Coast Dwarfs 3-2 on agg.
June 3: Nchanga Rangers (Zam) 0 Kaizer Chiefs (SAf) 0
Nchanga 2-0 on agg.

ASIA

JAPAN

FIRST STAGE

May 13: Kawasaki Frontale 1 Nagoya Grampus Eight 1 (aet); Kashiwa Reysol 1 Kashima Antlers 2; FC Tokyo 1 Cerezo Osaka 2; Gamba Osaka 2 Jubilo Iwata 1; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2 Verdy Kawasaki 1; Avispa Fukuoka 2 Yokohama F Marinos 4; Shimizu S-Pulse 1 JEF United Ichihara 0; Kyoto Purple Sanga 3 Vissel Kobe 2.
May 17: Kashima Antlers 0 Gamba Osaka 1; JEF United Ichihara 1 FC Tokyo 3; Verdy Kawasaki 1 Kyoto Purple Sanga 1 (aet); Yokohama F Marinos 4 Kawasaki Frontale 1; Jubilo Iwata 3 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 4 (aet); Nagoya Grampus Eight 0 Kashiwa Reysol 2; Cerezo Osaka 4 Avispa Fukuoka 2; Vissel Kobe 2 Shimizu S-Pulse 0.
May 20: FC Tokyo 1 Vissel Kobe 2; Shimizu S-Pulse 2 Verdy Kawasaki 3 (aet); Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1 Kashima Antlers 0; Kawasaki Frontale 2 Kashiwa Reysol 4; Avispa Fukuoka 0 JEF United Ichihara 3; Yokohama F Marinos 2 Cerezo Osaka 3; Kyoto Purple Sanga 2 Jubilo Iwata 3 (aet); Gamba Osaka 1 Nagoya Grampus Eight 2 (aet).
May 27: Kashima Antlers 3 Kyoto Purple Sanga 0; JEF United Ichihara 0 Yokohama F Marinos 2; Kashiwa Reysol 2 Gamba Osaka 1; Verdy Kawasaki 3 FC Tokyo 0; Jubilo Iwata 0 Shimizu S-Pulse 2; Nagoya Grampus Eight 2 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1; Cerezo Osaka 1 Kawasaki Frontale 2 (aet); Vissel Kobe 1 Avispa Fukuoka 0.

JAPAN – FIRST STAGE: FINAL

	P	W1	W2	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yokohama FM	15	10	0	0	5	32	21	30
Cerezo Osaka	15	9	1	0	5	34	25	29
Shimizu S-Pulse	15	8	2	0	5	21	17	28
Kashiwa Reysol	15	6	4	0	5	25	22	26
Jubilo Iwata	15	7	2	0	6	32	25	25
FC Tokyo	15	7	1	0	7	24	22	23
Vissel Kobe	15	7	0	1	7	21	17	22
Kashima Antlers	15	6	2	0	7	20	17	22
Verdy Kawasaki	15	5	2	1	7	26	23	20
Sanfrecce H	15	4	3	1	7	17	15	19
JEF United	15	6	0	1	8	22	22	19
Grampus Eight	15	4	3	1	7	17	18	19
Gamba Osaka	15	5	0	2	8	20	23	17
Avispa Fukuoka	15	3	3	0	9	19	28	15
Kawasaki Frontale	15	2	1	2	10	14	29	10
Kyoto PS	15	2	0	1	12	16	36	7

W1 = win in 90 mins (3 pts); W2 = win in extra time (2 pts); Draw = 1 pt

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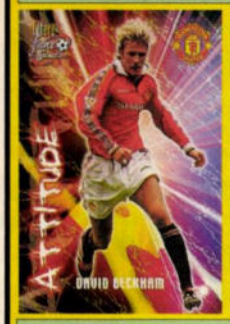

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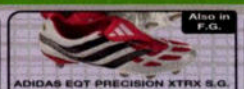
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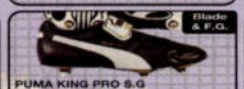
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Brian Glanville's LAST WORD

The English disease...fans on the rampage in Charleroi

No sign of an end to fan brutality

WHAT happened not only in Charleroi, where everyone expected it, but also in Brussels surely implied that there are only two possible solutions to the brutal violence that English thugs – some minority! – take with them to football abroad.

Neither is pleasant or easy to accept. But either we go back to banning England fans from all tournaments, all games of any international kind abroad, or the England team must drop out of competition. How long can other countries put up with the gratuitous violence that our mindless, brutal, brutalised and alienated fans take with them?

Home secretary Jack Straw and the Government have been blamed for not doing more about it. A German journalist was doing as much in Charleroi itself. Certainly Straw, characteristically, certainly the Government, equally typically, ducked and dodged over the issue of passport confiscation, cravenly refusing to use its mass of lobby fodder. But what if it had acted more rigorously? How much would that have achieved?

When asked about it some weeks ago, I said that to stop our louts going abroad to raise Cain is like trying to bale out the Pacific with a thimble. To vary the metaphor, these thugs come up like dragon's teeth, often groups of hooligans attached to the most obscure provincial clubs. For them violence is a way of life and a sordid *raison d'etre*. There is little or nothing else in their lives.

You will doubtless hear, as usual, that they were 'provoked', and in some cases that may well have been true.

An Italian journalist, who certainly had no axe to grind, told me that the Belgian police had been thirsting for trouble, had even over-reacted (and the local press said as much) in far less hectic circumstances in Brussels after Belgium had beaten Sweden. And, as the Italian said, British fans of that ilk do not disperse; it is part of their code to fight back.

It has gone on far too long and there is no sign that it is ever going to stop, given the existence of a lumpen underclass which seems to be growing all the time, largely incapable of rational thought, of doing any kind of decent job, often the fruit, if that be the word, of the disadvantaged single parent, product of those forbidding housing estates where there is no hope and evident escape except in vandalism, crime and the kind of violence we saw in Belgium.

Enough. Lennart Johansson and UEFA threatened expulsion. What else could they do?

Mistakes take the eye

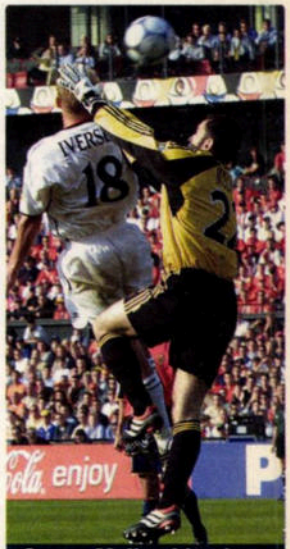
EURO 2000 might almost be categorised as the tournament of mistakes, often bizarre. There was the amazing lapse by the experienced Sinisa Mihajlovic, playing for Yugoslavia against little Slovenia, when in a moment of sheer aberration he square-passed across his own box straight to Zlatko Zahovic, who gratefully scored.

This was compounded by Mihajlovic shortly afterwards when, intervening in a spat between a colleague and an opponent, he ludicrously pushed the Slovenian to the ground, received his second yellow card, and was promptly sent off.

Then there was the Czech, Petr Gabriel, who, like Mihajlovic, passed across his own defence, enabling Thierry Henry of France to score with ease. The stupid push from behind by Didier Deschamps on Pavel Nedved in the same game was fully worthy of being punished – morally. The foul surely took place outside the box, even if the victim fell inside it, though it did not matter to Karel Poborsky, who put the spot-kick away with ease.

Equally hard to forget or understand was the moment of madness suffered by the Spanish keeper Jose Francisco Molina, who came racing out of goal needlessly, enabling Steffen Iversen to nod the ball over him and win Norway the game.

But perhaps pride (or whatever) of place should go to the hapless Belgian keeper, Filip De Wilde, for the amazing aberration which enabled Hakan Sukur to outjump him to that bouncing ball and head it into the net to put Turkey, against all odds, ahead – and traumatise the Belgians.



Oops...Molina blunders

Keegan DID have the right players

ENGLAND's team? Pitiful, yet there was no need for them to be. Incomprehensibly, some critics absolved Kevin Keegan on the grounds that he simply didn't have the players. Of course he had them, if by no means in abundance. In any case, what are managers, or coaches, for?

Nor do I take the Martin Keown view that mistaken tactics sunk England: 4-4-2 is a perfectly valid system if it is properly deployed, and Keegan failed wretchedly to do it.

What in the name of logic were the mediocre – I am being benign – Neville brothers doing in the team? Gary has had a nightmare of a year, giving away those two embarrassing goals to Vasco da Gama in Rio and nearly giving away two more at Old Trafford against Real Madrid in the Champions League. As for Phil, author of that idiotic foul which gave Romania victory in Charleroi, he is no more than third-choice left-back at Man United.

Keegan showed neither intelligence nor moral courage. He should have taken both Kieron Dyer and Rio Ferdinand to the tournament and he made such scant use of Nick Barmby, who had transformed the match against Ukraine at Wembley in May.

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